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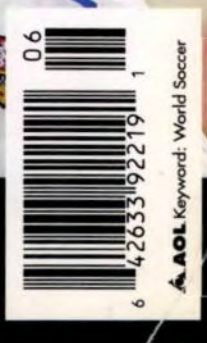

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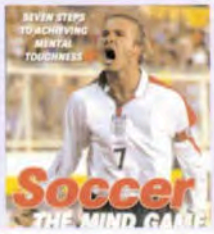


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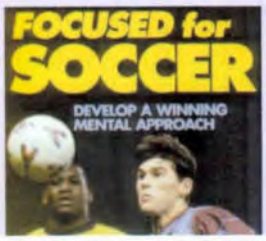


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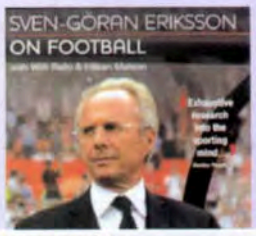


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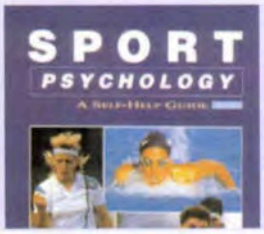


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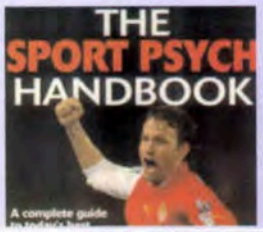


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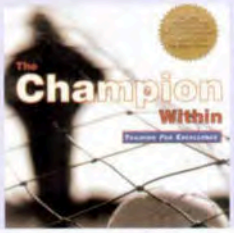


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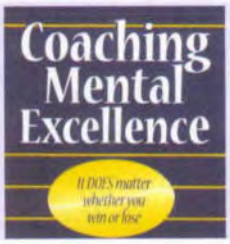


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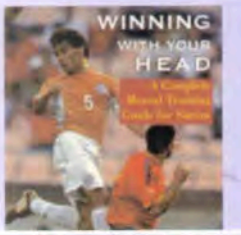


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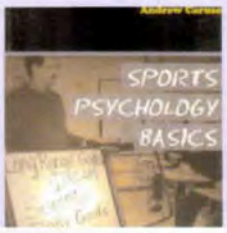


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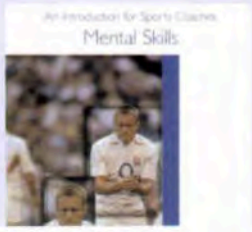


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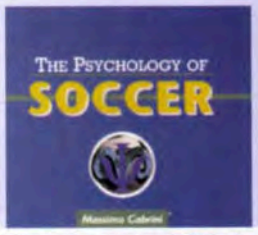


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**JUNE 2005**

# WORLD SOCCER comment

"PREPARE FOR A REVOLUTION" was one of the headlines in *World Soccer* following the Bosman ruling by the European Court in 1995. Now, almost a decade later, European football is a thoroughly different beast. The Liverpool and Milan teams that take to the pitch in the Champions League Final in Istanbul this month are likely to include two Englishmen and four Italians respectively. Whether that is a good or bad thing for football is entirely debatable. What is surely not good for the game is that the gap between rich and poor clubs is growing greater every season.

The talk in Tallinn at UEFA's annual Congress was of the same teams – be they Arsenal, Man United and Chelsea in England, or Rosenborg in Norway – qualifying for the Champions League, year in, year out. The combined effect of Bosman and the Champions League's financial rewards has been to hand Europe's biggest clubs the power and the finances to hoover up talent from across the European Union and beyond. Smaller clubs are being left to wither and die – a process brought painfully into perspective this past month with the relegation of former European champions Nottingham Forest to the third tier of English football.

To hear UEFA's chief executive, Lars-Christer Olsson, admit publicly that he hopes Everton finish fourth in the Premier League, thus introducing fresh blood into next season's Champions League, is an indication that the frustration many of us feel has been recognised at the highest level.

UEFA was outsmarted by Bosman and it has taken 10 years for Europe's governing body to respond. The Tallinn Congress approved a new quota system for home-grown players; starting in 2006-07, clubs competing in European competition will have to include four such players in a 25-man squad. It is only a small step for UEFA; indeed, none of the 16 teams in the knockout stages of this season's Champions League would have been prevented from taking part had the regulations applied this season. But it will be a giant leap for football if sporting values can begin to re-assert themselves over financial and commercial considerations.

Had Chelsea beaten Liverpool in the Champions League semi-finals, all the talk in Istanbul would have been of Roman Abramovich and Silvio Berlusconi, the two richest men in world football. And tactically, I suspect, Milan-Chelsea would have rivalled the all-Italian Final of 2003 between Milan and Juventus.

Instead, Milan versus Liverpool in the 50th European Champions Cup Final promises to be a memorable night in Istanbul. Rest assured, you can read the full story in next month's *World Soccer*.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 68

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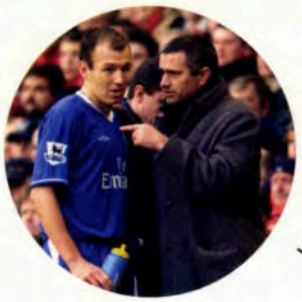


## THE NUMBERS GAME
ENGLAND: Of all the innovations that Chelsea's title-winning coach Jose Mourinho has brought to the Premier League, tactics have been the most important. **Page 64**

## OUT OF ORDER
BRAZIL: The authorities have been slammed for trying to claim the moral high ground over an alleged racist incident at a Libertadores Cup match between Sao Paulo and Argentina's Quilmes. **Page 18**

## WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

COVER STORY: We turn the spotlight on 21 potential stars of next year's World Cup in Germany. **Page 22**

## PSV CANTER HOME

HOLLAND: At the start of the season, few people gave PSV Eindhoven much hope of success. Eight months later they are League champions for the 18th time. **Page 46**

## BAYERN LIFT THE TITLE AGAIN

GERMANY: Bayern Munich, due to move this summer to their sumptuous new Allianz-Arena home, ended a 33-year residency at the Olympiastadion as they began it in 1972 – in possession of the Bundesliga shield. **Page 44**

## NATIONAL TEAM FORCED ON TO NEUTRAL SOIL

NORTH KOREA: The country's already slim hopes of qualifying for Germany 2006 took another blow when FIFA stripped them of the right to host their next qualifier, against Japan on June 8, after crowd violence at their 2-0 home defeat by Iran. **Page 58**

## SHOWDOWN IN ISTANBUL

We preview the 2005 UEFA Champions League Final between Liverpool and Milan. **Page 32**

## BANANA CULTURE

SPAIN: The country's poor record on tackling racism has been highlighted by a measly 600 euro fine for serial offenders Atletico Madrid. **Page 14**

## FURORE OVER BARTHEZ BAN

FRANCE: The federation has made a crisis out of a drama by giving a relatively light punishment to Fabien Barthez for spitting at a referee during a friendly game in February. **Page 45**

## DEMOLITION DERBY

ITALY: Crowd violence at the Internazionale-Milan Champions League quarter-final highlighted the growing problem of hooliganism at Italian stadiums. **Page 16**

## SYDNEY GO FOR GLAMOUR

AUSTRALIA: Sydney FC have established themselves as the A League's glamour club after signing former Manchester United forward Dwight Yorke and appointing German World Cup winner Pierre Littbarski as coach. **Page 59**

● 02/04/05

Can we play you every week?...champions DC United open the Major League Soccer season with a 2-0 defeat of new boys Chivas USA

● 05/04/05

Smiles all round...FIFA president Sepp Blatter unveils the logo for his latest competition, the Club World Championship

● 05/04/05

Anfield wrap...Sami Hyypia sends Liverpool on their way to a 2-1 victory over Juventus in the Champions League quarter-final first leg

# HEADLINERS

## FABIO CANNAVARO

### Italy captain in furore over hotel room film

JUVENTUS CENTRAL DEFENDER Fabio Cannavaro was the 'director' of a 'film' during his time at Parma that is unlikely ever to be used on FIFA or UEFA coaching courses. But the footage, shot by the current Italian national team captain on a hand-held camcorder in 1999, somehow found its way into the hands of a TV producer at Italian state broadcaster RAI, who had no hesitation in screening it.

The four-and-a-half-minute film was shot on May 11, 1999, the eve of Parma's 3-0 UEFA Cup Final victory over Marseille in Moscow. The action takes place in Room 712 of the Russian capital's Grand Hotel Marriott.

For the occasion, the hotel room has been turned into a clinic, with Parma team doctor Luca Montagna and team physiotherapist Corrado Gatti both busy helping various players prepare themselves for the match.

**'The doctor carefully places a needle into Cannavaro's left arm and then attaches it to the drip containing the Neoton. Throughout all of this, the player keeps up a tongue-in-cheek commentary'**

All of this we see thanks to Cannavaro's camera work as he walks into the room, filming all that goes before him and, indeed, all that goes into him.

As Cannavaro lies down on the doctor's couch, we see him being attached to an intravenous drip. Furthermore, as Montagna prepares the medicine that will be administered to Cannavaro, we see that it is called Neoton, a product not listed on the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned substances but one that is normally used in the treatment of patients with heart problems.

The doctor carefully places a needle into Cannavaro's left arm and then attaches it to the drip containing the Neoton. Throughout all of this, the player keeps up a tongue-in-cheek commentary. "This is the final proof that we all stink. Look at how low we've sunk. I'm 25 years old and they're killing me," says Cannavaro, in jest, as he turns the camera on himself.

Clearly, his footage was never intended for public viewing, and the commentary, while in questionable taste, was meant to be a joke. However, serious questions have again been raised about widespread doping practices in Italian football.

The issue prompted an intriguing comment from Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti. "An athlete is not a healthy person; rather one under huge physical stress," he said. "Training and playing matches are genuinely stressful and they leave their mark. The thing that surprises me is that accomplished medics fail to understand this. You cannot draw comparisons between a professional footballer and someone out for a run in the park."

Focus of attention...Cannavaro on camera

Current Inter player Juan Veron, a team-mate of Cannavaro's in 1999, sounded the same note. The Argentinian, who is visible on the film, said: "We had just played in the Italian Cup Final a couple of days earlier, and then we had the trip to Russia itself, so some players decided to make use of this [Neoton]. It is something that is used and has been used. All the teams use it."

Cannavaro himself offered a similar defence of his actions, saying: "I was just using an ordinary intravenous drip, not dope. When you play big games every three days you are not always going to be 100 per cent sharp, and for that reason players take multivitamin feeds, sometimes orally and sometimes via a drip."

*Paddy Agnew*

● 06/04/05

No wires...Chelsea fitness coach Rui Faria denies UEFA suggestions that he is receiving secret instructions from banned boss Jose Mourinho

● 06/04/05

Derby day...Milan beat Inter 2-0 in the Champions League quarter-final first leg

# Numbers game

## 7,298...

**the attendance at Parma's UEFA Cup semi-final first leg against CSKA Moscow.**

## £146,200,000...

**the total prize money for the 32 teams at next year's World Cup finals in Germany. Losing first-round teams will receive £3million, while the winners will receive £11.2m.**

## £69,500,000...

**the profit announced by FIFA for the 2004 financial year.**

## 4...

**the number of 'home-grown' players that clubs competing in the Champions League and UEFA Cup will have to include in their 25-man squad from the 2006-07 season.**

## 8...

**the planned number of home-grown players to be included in UEFA club competition squads by 2008-09.**

## £24,500,000...

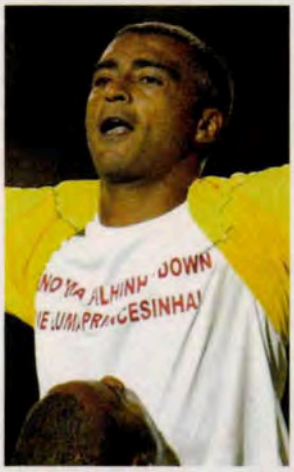
**the value of a new three-year TV rights deal signed by Belgian First Division clubs.**

## £50,000,000...

**the value of the five-year sponsorship deal agreed by Chelsea with Korean electronics manufacturer Samsung.**

## GABRIEL BATISTUTA

The former Argentina striker – who scored 56 goals in 78 internationals – announced his retirement from football having spent the past season in Qatar. He now intends to pursue his passion for golf; he recently competed in the Qatar Open Championship.



## ROMARIO

The 39-year-old, star of the 1994 World Cup, made one final appearance for the Brazilian national side, playing the first 38 minutes of a friendly against Guatemala in Sao Paulo. Romario scored in the 3-0 victory, taking his goal tally to 55 in 70 games. The match was organised to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Brazilian TV network Globo.

## LUCIEN LAURENT

The scorer of the World Cup's first goal has died, aged 97. Laurent struck in the 19th minute against Mexico on July 13, 1930, in the opening game of the finals in Uruguay. France won 4-1.

Laurent played as a semi-professional with Sochaux while also being employed as an assembly line worker by Peugeot. He was one of 16 players in the French squad who travelled by boat to Uruguay. "We just received a letter a week in advance telling us to report to Marseille to be measured for our blazers and kit," Laurent told *World Soccer* in 1998.

During World War Two he was

captured by the Germans and spent three years in prison in Saxony. After the war, he worked as a coach of local sides in Besancon and ran a bar until 1972. He carried on playing amateur football until well into his eighties.

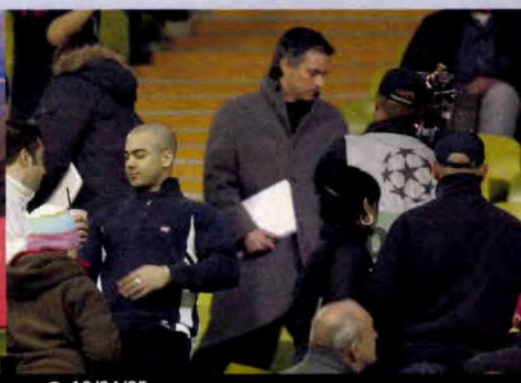
"I have only had this rule," he said. "Always keep a sense of humour, take life as it comes and make the most of it."

● 10/04/05

Real hero ...Raul celebrates scoring against Barcelona

● 12/04/05

Everybody off...referee Markus Merk instructs the players to leave the pitch after Milan keeper Dida is struck by a flare during the Champions League quarter-final second leg against Inter



● 12/04/05

Face in the crowd...Jose Mourinho, serving a touchline ban, takes his seat in the stand to watch Chelsea at Bayern Munich

# WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville

...on the financial gulf between Chelsea 1955 and 2005... the bruisers of Blackburn...and the scandal of Shevchenko's scot-free butt

Simply the best...Chelsea's Frank Lampard and skipper John Terry

**'Jose Mourinho has wielded his panoply of stars into a highly effective team, but wouldn't any competent manager, given such massive resources?'**

CHELSEA champions. Again. After 50 years. A cause for celebration or for trepidation? Could there be a sharper contrast than that between today's multi-million pound team, the plaything of a controversial Russian oligarch billionaire, and the team put together so shrewdly and economically by Ted Drake all those years ago?

It had only one major star and he was the only man who had cost much money: Roy Bentley, whose transfer fee was £11,000 when he joined the club from Newcastle United in the late 1940s. Otherwise, Drake, a famous and fearless Arsenal and England centre-forward, had scoured the lower leagues for talent. The two inside-forwards came from the Third Division South – Johnny McNichol of Brighton and Hove Albion, and Les Stubbs of Southend United. From Third Division North's Crewe Alexandra came the lively outside-left Frankie Blunstone, soon to be a full England international. Stan Willemse, who once played Stanley Matthews out of a game, was the robust left-back. Ron Greenwood, no less, future manager of West Ham United and England, played 21 games at centre-half.

And now? Such is the supporting wealth of Roman Abramovich that Chelsea can comfortably shrug off a loss of £89million. Their players are paid a

● 13/04/05

Shot out...Lyon exit the Champions League on penalties to PSV

● 13/04/05

Heysel remembered...Juventus fans display a banner saying "in memory and friendship" before their game against Liverpool in Turin

● 14/04/05

Down and out...Alan Shearer reflects on Newcastle's UEFA Cup exit to Sporting Lisbon

● 14/04/05

Marching on...Parma hold out against Austria Wien to reach the UEFA Cup semis

**'Todd's claim that Van Persie ran into his shoulder suggested that he can't tell his shoulder from his elbow'**

fortune, anything up to £5m a year. Drake's men were on a maximum wage that hadn't yet reached £20 a week.

The 1955 team was British to a man, though it hadn't been so long before that massive blond Swiss international Willy Steffen was playing at left-back. Today's Chelsea is polyglot to a degree, though it at least includes more English talent than Arsenal: John Terry, Frank Lampard, Joe Cole, Glen Johnson and, when fit, Wayne Bridge.

There has never been a club in England remotely as rich as Chelsea. Certainly not Arsenal, who were supposedly the money-bags team before the Second World War. Their expenditure reached a peak in 1938 with the £14,500 paid to Wolves for Wales inside-left Bryn Jones. But at the end of the war the Gunners were £150,000 in debt, to the Prudential.

Even Manchester United, with their massive crowds at Old Trafford and global commercial network, have lately come to a dead stop in the transfer market, having shelled out fortunes on the likes of Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Wayne Rooney. But Abramovich can go on spending endlessly, indefinitely.

This is an alarming and unbalancing prospect. There is no doubt Jose Mourinho, arrogant, contentious and loquacious, has wielded his panoply of stars into a highly effective, though hardly invincible, team. But couldn't and wouldn't any competent manager, given such massive resources? And must we resign ourselves to untold years of Chelsea dominance, bought with the fortunes of Abramovich?

MAYBE we need a new verb in football parlance. To Blackburn. Or alternatively, to be Blackburned. As Arsenal so shamefully were in that violent FA Cup semi-final at Cardiff, ineptly and feebly refereed by the pitiful Steve Dunn. "I didn't feel I was too lenient," he commented afterwards. No? Not when no fewer than three Blackburn players scythed down Patrick Vieira early in the game? Not when the ineffable Robbie Savage, almost as soon as he got on the field, cynically brought down teenager Cesc Fabregas?

But to give Dunn his due, he had his back to the incident when Andy Todd elbowed Robin Van Persie in the mouth immediately after he had scored his second goal for the Gunners. "He did him!" exclaimed Alan Hansen, on BBC TV. The FA, however, decided in its wisdom that it couldn't be proved, a decision we must accept.

Todd, it must be said, has form. Oh boy, does he have form! Bolton kicked him out after he broke a cheekbone and fractured the jaw of assistant manager Phil Brown. Subsequently, at Charlton, he left keeper Dean Kiely with a black eye. Previously with Blackburn, he kicked French forward Christophe Dugarry hard from behind.

Todd's claim that Van Persie "ran into my shoulder" suggested that he can't tell his shoulder from his elbow. As for poor Van Persie, he wryly observed: "It's hard for me to judge if it was an accident but he wasn't anywhere near me and then he was suddenly jumping into me with his arm up."

It was absurd of Blackburn manager Mark Hughes to exhume the foolish old myth of southern teams being sissies, implying, however unintentionally, that northern teams don't mind being kicked.

FOR sheer perverse dereliction of moral duty, UEFA, alas not for the first time, took the biscuit for their ludicrous failure to punish Milan's Andrii Shevchenko for butting Inter's Marco Materazzi in the face. You saw it, on TV, I saw it, millions must have seen it. Apparently, the dumb bunny of a linesman didn't, though he was standing almost on top of it.

So in that Champions League derby, Shevchenko, the European Footballer of the Year, was allowed to stay on the field and score the spectacular winning goal.

There was no excuse for the bombardment of flares that injured Milan's unfortunate Brazilian keeper Dida, though the incident that provoked it, the disallowing of Esteban Cambiasso's legitimate-looking goal, was, shall we say, inflammatory. But those who have wondered how it is that the Italian police allow fans into stadia carrying flares surely have a valid point.

Contact...Van Persie is caught by Todd after scoring

Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com

● 16/04/05

Money man...Malcolm Glazer prepares a fresh bid for Man Utd

● 16/04/05

Crowd trouble...rows of empty seats tell their own story as the FA Cup semi-final between Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers is watched by a crowd of 52,000 at the 72,500-capacity Millennium stadium in Cardiff

● 17/04/05

Semi-conductor...Ruud Van Nistelrooy celebrates scoring in Man Utd's 4-1 FA Cup defeat of Newcastle

## The lowdown on...

# Lille

Name for the future...striker Matt Moussilou

**What's all the fuss about?**
The northern outfit appeared certainties to be involved in a relegation struggle this season after selling a number of key players last summer. Those leaving were central defender Eric Abidal, to Lyon, Bulgarian striker Vladimir Manchev (Levante in Spain), full-back Stephane Pichot (Paris Saint-Germain) and midfielder Benoit Cheyrou (Auxerre), and Lille spent next to nothing on replacements. But the young, vibrant and organised side have been camped in the upper echelons of the French top flight all season long and are handily placed to book their ticket for the Champions League.

**What's their history?**
Founded in 1944, Lille Olympique Sporting Club were France's top club in the post-Second World War era, winning two championships (1946 and 1954) and five domestic cups. The subsequent years, however, were far less glorious, with the club yo-yoing between the First and Second Divisions and finances so tight that they were even forced to abandon professionalism for a period in the late 1960s. Under Bosnian coach Vahid Halilhodzic, they won promotion to the top flight in 2000 and the following season qualified for the Champions League after finishing third.

**Who's their powerbroker?**
High-profile Parisian film producer Michel Seydoux, whose list of credits includes *Cyrano de Bergerac*. He took over as majority shareholder and president three years ago and immediately set about boosting the club's commercial and marketing potential, as well as improving their sporting infrastructure. Seydoux has already built a training complex just outside town and desires a new, bigger stadium.

**Don't mention...**
Seydoux's ill-timed protest when Lille's League game with Monaco was postponed because of the death of the principality's ruler Prince Rainier. Or midfielder Christophe Landrin's recent brush with armed robbers at his home.

**Who picks the team?**
Forty-three-year-old former Monaco boss Claude Puel, who was appointed to replace the PSG-bound Halilhodzic in the summer of 2002. Puel came in for much criticism during his first two seasons at Lille – they finished 14th in 2002-03 and 10th last term. But Seydoux stood by him and Puel has delivered at the third time of asking. A Monaco player for the best part of two decades, he was the Monte Carlo club's fitness and reserve coach before being handed first-team responsibility in 1999. Puel led the Monegasques to the League title in 2000.

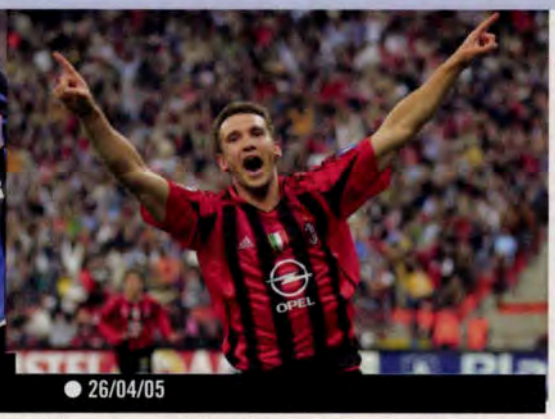
**What's the Puel philosophy?**
He's a steak and chips rather than a haute cuisine man. Normally employing a 4-2-3-1 or a 4-3-2-1, he is certainly no risk-taker, making a solid defensive base his priority. His side like nothing better than to sit back, soak up pressure and then strike on the counter. Puel sets great store by the physical and mental strength of his side and frequently rotates his personnel. Calm, softly-spoken and always open to input from his players, he is the antithesis of the authoritarian Halilhodzic.

**Who are the main men?**
Senegal international keeper Tony Sylva, formerly the back-up to Fabien Barthez and Flavio Roma at Monaco, has been in great form since moving north last summer. In front of him, the Greek-Brazilian centre-back pairing of Stathis Tavlaridis (ex-Arsenal) and Rafael Schmitz are equally impenetrable. All-action defensive midfielder Mathieu Bodmer has arguably been the revelation of this season; on the left flank the experienced Philippe Brunel combines creativity and goal threat; while young home-grown striker Matt Moussilou is a name to store away for future reference.

**What's their stadium like?**
Amazingly, they are a club of no fixed abode. The owners of their ground, the city council, had planned to raze their frayed old stadium, the Grimonprez-Jooris, and erect a new 33,000-capacity arena on the site. But with environmentalists up in arms, all bets are off as to when the work will start, if at all. This season Lille are playing at the Stadium Nord, a draughty athletics venue in the suburbs. They may be there for some time.

● 20/04/05

Away-day special...Internazionale pull off a notable victory, beating Juventus 1-0 in Turin



● 26/04/05

Sheva strikes...Andrii Shevchenko scores the crucial first goal for Milan in their Champions League semi-final first leg against PSV Eindhoven

## GOOD MONTH FOR...

Franz Beckenbauer...UEFA Congress's decision to postpone the presidential election until 2007 will allow Der Kaiser to concentrate on organising the 2006 World Cup in Germany – and then launch his (as yet undeclared) bid to succeed Lennart Johansson.

Well-watched...Strasbourg

FIFA executive committee members ...who will now receive an "annual remuneration" of £52,000, up from £26,000, for carrying out their duties. They will also now receive an annual pension when they step down from the committee. The moves were suggested by FIFA's finance committee and approved by...the executive committee.

AFC Wimbledon...now only three levels below the Football League after winning the Ryman Division One title.

French League Cup... Strasbourg beat Caen 2-1 in front of a record Final crowd of 78,721 at the Stade de France, Paris.

## BAD MONTH FOR...

Robert Hoyzer...the referee at the centre of Germany's recent corruption scandal was banned for life by the federation.

Michel Platini...the only declared candidate to succeed Lennart Johansson as UEFA president found himself outmanoeuvred by the UEFA Congress's decision to postpone the election until 2007.

Injury setback...Ajax's Maxwell

Nottingham Forest...the European Cup winners of 1979 and 1980 became the first former champions to be relegated to the third tier of domestic League football.

Makhete Ndiaye...the Wydad Casablanca striker was suspended for the rest of the season after attacking coach Jacky Bonnevay with his boots. Television pictures showed Ndiaye hitting the cowering coach repeatedly in an angry outburst after he had been substituted.

Maxwell...Ajax's Brazilian is likely to miss out on a summer transfer after he was ruled out for eight months with a serious knee injury.

# Notes & quotes

"The rage of our fans is understandable as the goal we had disallowed was a good one."

Internazionale's Colombian centre-back Ivan Cordoba makes the mistake of trying to condone the flare-throwing antics of the Inter fans which led to the abandonment of their Champions League quarter-final second leg with Milan.

"We find ourselves in a situation of pitch-black arrogance and senseless barbarity."

Italian daily *La Repubblica* lays it on the line following the distressing events at the San Siro.

"Now Zidane knows why he tires in games."

*Marca* reveals Real Madrid's Frenchman is suffering from a genetic condition that affects his physical resistance.

"The Titanic was easier to save than Rostock."

Hansa Rostock coach Jorg Berger prepares to throw in the towel as his side slide towards relegation.

Spanish main men...Villarreal

"I've come to the conclusion Villarreal are the strongest team in the League."

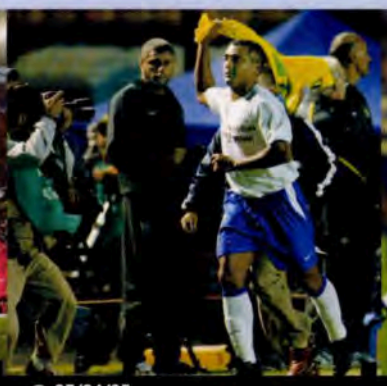
Whose side is Real Madrid director of football Arrigo Sacchi on?

"The problem is that we didn't have anything left in the tank."

Sochaux midfielder Roman Pitau after a recent defeat. Sochaux's shirt sponsor? Esso.

● 27/04/05

Goalless at the Bridge...Frank Lampard shoots over during Chelsea's 0-0 Champions League draw with Liverpool

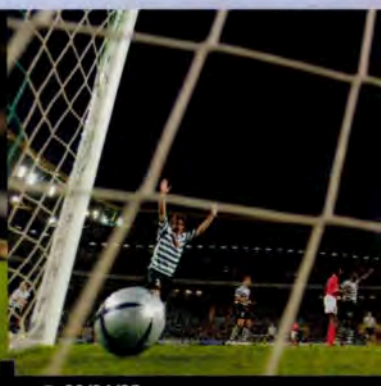


● 27/04/05

Over and out...Romario plays his last match for Brazil

● 28/04/05

Stalemate...Parma and CSKA Moscow draw 0-0 in the UEFA Cup semi-final first leg



● 28/04/05

Advantage Portugal...Sporting Lisbon take a 2-1 lead over AZ Alkmaar

WS WORLD SOCCER **Jim Holden**

# The elimination game

## England's anti-hooligan measures would solve Italy's problem too

THERE WAS A bleak irony that the distressing sight of a flare hitting Milan goalkeeper Dida in the Champions League quarter-final against city rivals Internazionale should occur in the very week of Liverpool playing Juventus for the first time in a competitive fixture since the horror of Heysel.

Has football learned nothing during the past 20 years?

In Italy, apparently not. While English soccer has fought with vigour and vigilance against the scourge of violent hooligan behaviour at grounds, too many other nations have preferred a policy of relatively passive containment.

Events in Rome and Milan during Champions League matches this season prove beyond doubt that this policy doesn't work. Remember referee Anders Frisk with blood running down his face after being struck by a missile thrown from the Roma fans? Millions of TV viewers do. And Dida will hardly forget how lucky he was to escape serious injury.

Many other instances of appalling crowd trouble in Italy during the past few years could also be cited – for example, Wales fans complained bitterly at being unprotected targets for local hooligans at a Euro 2004 qualifier.

The reality – no-go zones for police in crowd areas behind goals and trouble organised by violent gangs – is exactly as it was in English football 20 years ago. Back then it was called the English Disease. Today, Italy and others should employ the English Solution.

Some critics have condemned UEFA for lenient punishment of Roma and Inter, ordering them to play several future matches behind closed doors rather than imposing a more draconian one-season expulsion from European club competitions. Perhaps the latter would have been worthwhile; certainly the five-year ban following Heysel helped to concentrate English minds.

But UEFA is the wrong target here. The overwhelming responsibility for action lies with Italian football and the nation's government and police. All must take heed of the most vital lesson learned by the English – that containment is a useless strategy, that the only way to make a real impact is to actively target the hooligans and eliminate them from grounds. Evidence from England shows it can be done if the political will is in place.

The key weapon by far is the use of CCTV cameras throughout stadiums so that every act of violence and missile-throwing can be captured and the perpetrators pursued. When they are caught, it then requires strong prosecution in the courts. Long jail sentences for convicted hooligans had an immediate and significant deterrent effect in England.

The thugs swiftly discovered there was no hiding place in the middle of crowds, no sanctuary in a no-go zone. So they either disappeared from grounds or stopped behaving violently at matches. Rigorous searching of spectators as they entered grounds was also a vital tactic. Anyone with missiles or flares would be arrested. It could take far longer to get in, but so what?

**'UEFA is not the target. Overwhelming responsibility for action lies with Italian football, government and police'**

Today, there isn't a venue in English football with a no-go zone, no ground where the police or stewards cannot employ normal crowd control. And there is no reason why this could not happen in Italy if the desire is strong and if club owners and players publicly back the policy.

What would be the result of such a change in culture? Just look at England again. Thousands of football lovers have been encouraged to return to watch live games in the Premiership. The situation is not perfect, occasional hooligan incidents do occur, but the overall atmosphere is one of safety and security.

Twenty years ago attendances in England were plummeting. Now the stadiums are packed. In Serie A today there are low gates – in many weeks they are lower on average than the figures for the second tier of English football, never mind the booming Premiership.

What on earth is Italian football waiting for?

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Singled out...Espanyol keeper Carlos Kameni suffered abuse at the hands of Atletico Madrid fans, but the club were barely punished

# Banana culture

## Atletico's 600 euro fine sums up Spain's poor record on racism

**SID LOWE in Madrid**

WHEN CAMEROONIAN GOALKEEPER Carlos Kameni had two bananas thrown at him during Espanyol's recent visit to the Vicente Calderon, Atletico Madrid were fined 600 euros (around £420). What's that, some joked, 300 euros per banana? Which rather said it all.

What it was, in truth, was another failure to deal adequately with racism in Spanish football. Monkey chanting and racist abuse have become sadly fashionable, a regular Sunday afternoon source of 'fun', since national coach Luis Aragones' now infamous comments about Thierry Henry to Jose Antonio Reyes and England's friendly in Spain in November, when the visitors' black players were roundly abused. The measly fine was a further indication of a refusal to take racism seriously; a willingness to talk a good game but not play one.

It must have been extremely galling for the Spanish to have been given lessons in how to behave by the English, of all people, even more so to be lectured by certain sections of the British press. But things have to change.

Indeed, what was most saddening about everything that surrounded the Spain-England friendly was the dreadful way it was handled by Aragones, the media and the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF). No one seemed to think it mattered.

It is, as Roberto Carlos has rightly insisted, pointless to turn the issue into a kind of you're-more-racist-than-us competition; a

competition in which many are guilty of engaging. And progress has been made in Spain. But more needs to be done and lessons can be learned. Some in Spain seized on Dwight Yorke suffering abuse in January while playing for Birmingham at Blackburn as an indication that the English had no right to preach. But the two fans who abused Yorke were in court the next morning; Atletico got a 600 euro fine, described by the United Against Racism group, as "ridiculous". That is the real difference.

As the respected football broadcaster Antonio Oliver put it: why is it that no fan would ever shout terrorist slogans at a stadium but many are perfectly happy to abuse black players? Because terrorism has become utterly intolerable; racism, as yet, has not. And fines like that meted out to Atletico do not help to change that.

**Atletico's third fine**

What made the fine all the more striking was that it was Atletico's third for racist abuse – and on each occasion it has been 600 euros. There was no increase or additional punishment for re-offending, no threat of stronger measures. It was, simply, the standard fine. Getafe, Malaga, Deportivo La Coruna and Albacete had all been hit with the same amount.

And they were just the clubs that the RFEF was obliged to act against because racist abuse was included in the referee's report. In January, monkey chants were directed at Osasuna's Pierre Webo and Richard Morales during their match at Espanyol. The report of referee Miguel Perez Lasa, however, described the behaviour of the supporters as "normal", so nothing happened. Perez Lasa might not have heard it but everyone else did.

If that wasn't enough, Albacete's fine was reduced to 300 euros on appeal. As a measure of priorities, Second Division Valladolid's players were fined 500 euros each for celebrating a goal by removing their shirts to reveal T-shirts wishing team-mate German Hornos a speedy recovery from a head injury suffered in a car crash. Obviously a heinous crime, far worse than tucking your hands into your armpits and screaming monkey chants at black footballers.

"They talk a lot but do nothing. You have to take a far harder line against all those people who abuse us because of the colour of our skin," said Morales, who celebrated one goal by bounding up and down like a monkey.

Samuel Eto'o did the same after he was abused throughout Barcelona's victory in Zaragoza. "If they pay to see a monkey, a monkey is what they'll get," he explained. His was an effective protest. "I prefer to speak up rather than keep quiet," he says.

Alas, others have been unwilling or unable to do the same. Malaga's Uruguayan midfielder Marcelo Romero, whose team-mate Paulo Wanchope climbed into the crowd and had it out with his own fans after being abused, insisted at a conference on racism in football that he hadn't really experienced any racism.

Maybe, maybe not. But how could he say anything different? Sitting not two feet away in the front row was an official from his club who had been vociferously insisting there was no racism at Malaga. During the two-hour session, led by the head of the Movement Against Intolerance and attended by politicians, officials and a panel of journalists, case after case of racism were outlined and solutions debated, yet the headline in one of the country's main sports dailies the next day simply read: "Romero: there's no racism in Spain."

Besides, what about the white players? Why should black players be left to speak up alone? Eto'o claimed that there has been solidarity, but few white players have criticised fans. Fewer still their own fans, surely the most effective, if risky protest. Kameni was abused by his own supporters for questioning their decision to abuse another black player.

Which of course is the absurdity of it all. Atletico Madrid fans will have a go at Kameni but cheer their own black player, Colombian defender Luis Perea. It is, they judge, just a way of winding up the opposition, but it is sad and telling that colour is considered a legitimate weapon. That needs challenging. That is what Oliver was rightly getting at.

But while many do not speak out, the very existence of the racism in football conference, set up by the Andalucian Institute of Sport, is positive. So is the fact that all of Spain's clubs have now signed the Protocol Against Racism, which lays out a series of measures to tackle racism. The Observatory of Racism, Xenophobia and Violence in Sport has been set up, too, its president Javier Duran insisting that a good start has been made.

**Promise to act**

The RFEF has published a website communique that reads: "Following the worrying outbreaks of racism by a small sector of supporters in recent months, the CSD [Sports Council], the RFEF, the Spanish League and the AFE [players' union] would like to reiterate their condemnation of this kind of behaviour and reaffirm their promise to act with the greatest rigour in order to eradicate any manifestation of racism or xenophobia in Spanish football. We promise to do all we can to prevent any kind of behaviour that goes against the dignity of people at football matches."

But it is not, of itself, enough. And the fear lingers that the promise will not be kept. A bigger fine may not stop bananas being thrown at players like Kameni and may not, as some have protested, even be fair on clubs who can do little against a solitary idiot who has stopped by the fruit stall on the way to the game. But it would at least send out a message, encourage action.

Fining miscreants 600 euros sends out the wrong message – that racism just doesn't matter. Clearly, some in the Spanish game still believe that, while there is also a resentment that other people (especially the English) are so 'obsessed' by racism.

Finally, talking of wrong messages, isn't it a bit odd that after years and years of footballers wearing all sorts of bits of string, strips of leather and bracelets, the RFEF has only now banned players from wearing anything on their wrists – just as the anti-racism bands have been released?

## 'If they pay to see a monkey, a monkey is what they'll get'

*Samuel Eto'o explains his protest against racist abuse at Zaragoza*

**Broken English...Beckham**

**● Red faces all round at the Press Association who reported, thanks to a simple translation error, that David Beckham was suffering from arthritis, rather than a hairline fracture of a bone in his foot. Not the sort of thing a Real Madrid galactico would want to hear on the occasion of his 30th birthday.**

# Demolition derby

## Crowd violence at the Inter-Milan Champions League quarter-final highlights a growing problem

**PADDY AGNEW in Rome**

APRIL WAS A MONTH of tremendous contrasts in Italian football. On the one hand, Milan in the Champions League and Parma in the UEFA Cup continued to fly the Italian flag proudly in European competition, in seeming defiance of those who suggest that Italian football is in a terminal state of decline.

On the other hand, fan violence during a Champions League game at San Siro as well as uncomfortable revelations about the use (abuse?) of medical products by Italy captain Fabio Cannavaro (see Headliners, page 6) served as timely reminders that all is not what it might be in the Italian olive grove.

It is not often that a club will greet a £132,000 fine and a four-match stadium ban with relief, but that was undoubtedly the case with Internazionale after a UEFA disciplinary body had ruled on the crowd violence that marred their Champions League quarter-final second leg with city rivals Milan. German referee Markus Merk was forced to abandon the game because of the violent incidents and the game was subsequently awarded (3-0) to Milan.

The violence exploded halfway through the second half, at a time when Inter were trailing 1-0 on the night, 3-0 on aggregate. To all intents and purposes, Inter were already out of the competition

Unacceptable... flares rain down on the pitch as Inter's disgruntled fans bring the derby to a halt

since at that point they needed to score four goals in less than 25 minutes to make it into the semi-finals.

The spark that lit the Inter fan fuse came when Merk disallowed a goal scored by Inter's Argentinian midfielder Esteban Cambiasso. That prompted a furious reaction from the Inter fans behind the Milan goal, with hundreds of objects including flares, cigarette lighters, coins, umbrellas and keys being thrown on to the pitch.

Milan's Brazilian goalkeeper, Dida, was hit on the shoulder by a flare and ruled out of the rest of the game. Dida was a lucky man, getting away with little more than a bit of a bruise, and by the following Sunday he was back keeping goal in a surprise 2-1 defeat at Siena.

Merk had little option but to take the teams off the field, in the vain hope that the intemperate fans would calm down. Announcements were made over the public address system that the referee wished to restart the game but would immediately abandon it if the object throwing and terrace violence started up again.

Sure enough, when the match kicked off again after a 10-minute break, the violence flared up again with more objects thrown on to the pitch and Merk called a halt.

All in the mind...Cassano

● **Roma are the latest club to appoint a sports psychologist, Filippa Costa, in a bid to improve the mindset of players such as Francesco Totti and Antonio Cassano. "We're convinced the performances of the players are dependent not only on the individual but also the environment around them," said Costa.**

### Inter on probation

A UEFA Cup tie between Inter and Spanish side Alaves in 2001 had also been interrupted by a similar explosion of violence, so many commentators speculated that UEFA might come down heavily on Inter, perhaps even to the point of giving them a season-long ban from European competition. In the end, given the gravity of the events, many probably felt they got off lightly.

"There will be some people who think that it [the sentence] is lenient and others who think that it is harsh," commented UEFA spokesman William Gaillard, adding: "This is the highest fine in the history of UEFA and the loss of four home games will mean that Inter lose out on revenue of around £5.5million. You have to put it in the context of the game. There were no further injuries apart from a very slight one to the goalkeeper, which we absolutely regret."

Inter are now on a three-year probationary period. If there are further violent incidents at San Siro during that period, the club will be forced to play another two matches behind closed doors.

The San Siro violence focused attention on a problem that, sadly, is becoming a constant in Italian football. In the past 18 months we have seen the death of a fan following riots before the Avellino-Napoli derby of September 2003, the suspension of the Roma-Lazio derby last March and, most recently, the suspension of Roma's Champions League tie with Kyiv Dynamo in September 2004, to name the most obvious incidents.

Last season, 335 people were arrested as a result of 231 violent incidents in and around Italian stadiums. On the Sunday before the Inter-Milan clash, 17 people were arrested and 85 policemen injured after rioting at various League matches.

One curious aspect of the violence at San Siro is worth reflecting on. Special Task Force police, reviewing the closed-circuit TV footage of the incidents, came across the all-too-familiar face of a certain Matteo Saronni.

The 26-year-old carpenter from the village of Isola di Fondra, in the valleys around Bergamo, is a member of the Viking group of Inter *ultras*.

In May 2001, during an Inter-Atalanta game, Saronni pulled off a highly dangerous stunt. Before the match, he stole a moped belonging to an Atalanta fan and dragged it all the way to the top of the San Siro stand. Then, after the final whistle, he threw the moped over the rails and down to the next level. Fortunately it crashed on to the concrete steps below without killing anyone.

Although he was given a suspended 14-month sentence for that act, Saronni did not seem to learn too much from the experience. A year later he was again arrested, this time for throwing 'objects' on to the pitch during an Inter-Juventus game, was given a five-month suspended sentence and banned from football stadiums for six months.

Yet again, the learning process appears to have bypassed him because there he was at it again in the thick of the incidents that marred the Champions League tie. At press time, Saronni was being held under a sort of house arrest (he is allowed out to go to work) while awaiting a fast-track court hearing in Milan.

Obviously, football violence in Italy, as elsewhere, is a complex issue, reflecting a broad variety of socio-economic problems. There is no one answer. Harsher legislation may or may not discourage the Matteo Saronnis of this world.

If anything good has come out of the shameful scenes at San Siro last month, it is that at least Italian football and government authorities are beginning to look the problem in the eye. Unfortunately, they have plenty to look at.

Two weeks later, there was again plenty to look at for viewers of state broadcaster RAI, thanks to the home-made film shot by Juventus and Italy defender Cannavaro.

It quickly became a major source of controversy. Remarkably, however, while one or two commentators pointed an accusatory finger at alleged doping practices in football, the vast majority of Italian coaches claimed it had all been blown out of proportion.

All this might sound like a storm in a tea cup had it not raised the possibility that using pharmaceutical products for purposes other than that for which they were intended may in the end have an effect similar to doping.

## 'Given the gravity of events, many feel Inter got off lightly'

# Out of order

## The authorities are slammed for trying to claim the moral high ground over an alleged racist incident

**BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro**

THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES claimed it was a major victory in the fight to wipe out racism in football. Nearly everyone else saw it as a cheap publicity stunt, with a large helping of hypocrisy and neighbourly rivalry thrown in.

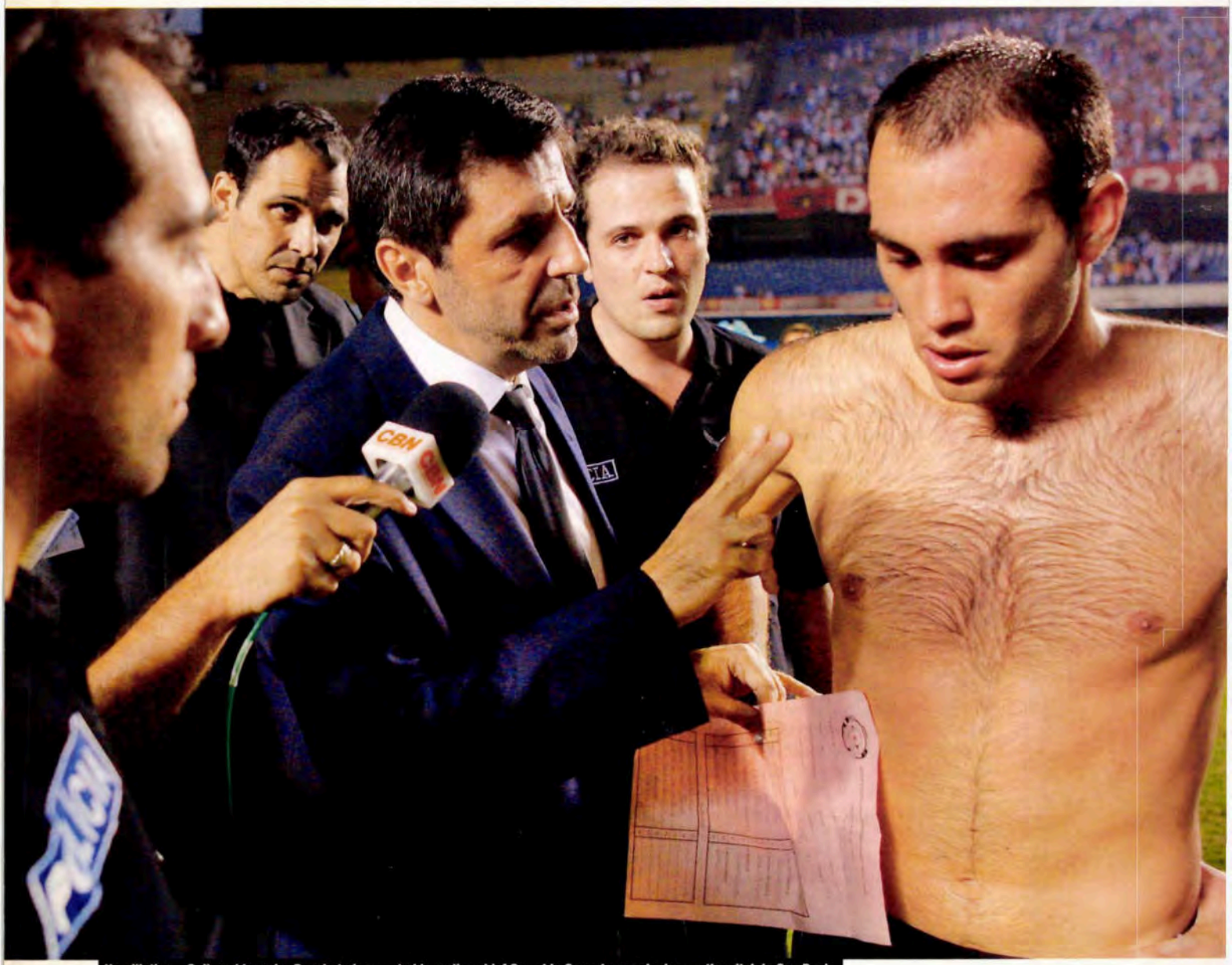
These conflicting opinions were formed after Argentinian defender Leandro Desabato was arrested on the field by Brazilian police over an alleged racist insult at the end of a fiery Libertadores Cup tie between Sao Paulo and Quilmes, a modest Buenos Aires team.

He spent the next 40 hours in police custody on a charge of "slander, aggravated by racism" following an incident with Sao Paulo striker Grafite. He was eventually released on bail and allowed to return to the Argentinian capital.

The Brazilian police, football directors and government were very pleased with themselves indeed. "This is an example for the rest of the world," proclaimed Marco Polo del Nero, president of the Paulista (Sao Paulo state) Football Federation.

Brazilian federation president Ricardo Teixeira – yes, the same one who was accused of all sorts of irregularities by the Congressional investigations of 2001 – also claimed some moral high ground for himself. "In sport, there is only room for understanding and confraternisation between people," he said.

The Brazilian sports ministry got so excited that it effectively declared Desabato guilty without trial. "The racist attitude of the Argentinian player goes against all the values of equality, respect




**Humiliation...Quilmes' Leandro Desabato is arrested by police chief Oswaldo Goncalvez as he leaves the pitch in Sao Paulo**

and unity that sport promotes," it said, even claiming the 26-year-old's behaviour could be considered "a threat to democracy".

The incident that sparked all this rhetoric happened at the end of the first half. Grafite tangled with Carlos Arano, then Desabato joined in and made a remark – in Spanish – to Grafite, though it was not clear what he said. Grafite pushed Desabato in the face, the defender keeled over backwards, writhed around on the ground, and the striker was sent off, along with Arano.

At this point, Desabato appeared guilty of nothing more than appalling play-acting, and the referee took no action. However, Grafite told police he had been racially insulted. As soon as the match finished (Sao Paulo won 3-1) around half a dozen police arrested Desabato amid incredulity from the Quilmes camp.

**Desabato handcuffed**

While the authorities congratulated themselves, others were less impressed, especially by the circus that followed. Desabato was even handcuffed as he was moved from one police station to another.

"I think it's sensational for Grafite to lead the campaign against racism," wrote Jose Trajano in sports daily *Lance*. "He's intelligent, sensible and can contribute a lot. What is shocking, however, is the opportunism of the police, politicians, journalists and authorities, who try to portray themselves as guardians of morality."

A similar line was taken by Jose Geraldo Couto in the *Folha de Sao Paulo* newspaper. He wrote: "There is evidence that a lot of people – starting with the Minister for Sports, Agnelo Queiroz – are using the episode to make a name for themselves."

For the record, Desabato denied the charge. "I just responded to Grafite's provocations," he said. "They searched me, put me against a wall and frisked me as if I were a delinquent. I didn't kill anyone, I didn't steal."

Brazilian police insisted Desabato broke the law of the land. However, the law is broken every week on grounds all over Brazil, where punch-ups, potentially crippling tackles and all kinds of verbal insults are common.

If the law is going to be enforced at continental games, should there not be a 'neutral' police force to do it, just as there is a neutral referee? Otherwise, Brazil might one day find half their team arrested for breaking an obscure local law about spitting or wearing yellow shirts in public.

The police usually prefer to leave matters on the field to football tribunals, even for incidents that would be considered criminal offences if they happened on the street. Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, whose team travel to Buenos Aires for a World Cup qualifier in June, was worried about the precedent that had been set. "I'd have preferred it not to have gone beyond the sporting boundaries," he said. "I hope our game is settled on the field in the cleanest way possible."

The latest incident will certainly not help Argentina-Brazil enmity, already heightened after Carlos Bilardo, the former Argentina coach, suggested a few months ago that his camp might have offered Brazilian players contaminated water during their meeting at the 1990 World Cup.

There is more than a sneaking suspicion that coach Emerson Leao and Sao Paulo club officials might have egged on Grafite between the moment he was sent off and the end of the game. Leao was beaten up during a brawl after a match in Buenos Aires in 1997 when he was Atletico Mineiro coach and barely attempts to conceal his resentment of anything Argentinian.

Quilmes, meanwhile, were indignant at the way they were treated, especially when a media mob were allowed to stay outside their dressing-room after the game and they had to force their way through to the team bus.

"There's no need for all this chaos," said coach Gustavo Alfaro. "It was an unnecessary spectacle [for the police] to come on to the field in front of 50,000 or 60,000 people when the player's pulse rate is still high, he's just lost a game. Nobody has benefited from this. I hope next time a Brazilian team comes to play in Argentina, the players and staff are treated properly."

Quilmes will seek redress. "We had all sorts of problems here and we will certainly look for compensation for the moral and financial damages we have suffered," said vice-president Julio Garcia. "We believe the arrest of Desabato was a huge injustice."

Director Jose Luis Meizner added: "This is not a coincidence. It seems that in Brazil there's a competition with Europe to see which country is leading the fight against racism."

Less than a week after the Quilmes match, Leao surprisingly resigned, saying he was off to Japan to take over at Vissel Kobe. Sao Paulo, who had wrapped up the Paulista championship with three games to spare, became one of four teams to suffer coaching changes in the week before the start of the Brazilian championship.

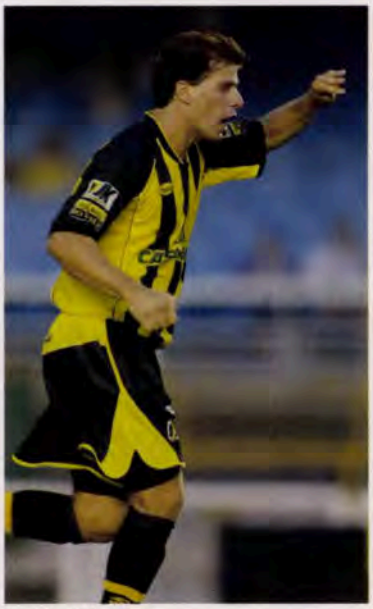
Cuca became the second coach to be fired by Flamengo this year after repeatedly demanding reinforcements. He was replaced by Celso Roth, whose first words were: "I'm going to tell the directors we need new players."

Palmeiras hired their third coach of the year, Paulo Bonamigo, when Candinho resigned. Dario Lourenco took over at Vasco da Gama when Joel Santana departed after a 3-0 home defeat by Third Division Baraunas in the Copa Brasil.

In most countries coaching changes usually start after the championship has begun. But in Brazil the national championship is preceded by the dreaded state competitions, which finish only a week before the main event starts. Throw in some midweek Copa Brasil and Libertadores Cup matches and the opening day of the championship – a big event in Europe – loses any sense of occasion.

**'They put me against a wall and frisked me as if I were a delinquent'**

*Leandro Desabato*



**The biter bit...Tulio**

**● Fluminense clinched the Carioca (Rio state) championship after overturning a 4-3 deficit to outsiders Volta Redonda from the first leg of the Final by winning the return 3-1. Their immediate reaction was to goad Tulio, Volta Redonda's 35-year-old leading scorer.**

**Never one for modesty, Tulio, who scored a 'hand of God' goal against Argentina at the 1995 Copa America, spent the entire run-up to the second leg bragging about his exploits. He even did a mock radio commentary describing himself scoring the title-winning goal with a bicycle kick. "He's going to have plenty of time to spend with his wife, talking rubbish," said one Fluminense player.**

# Growing up

## The Japanese game is maturing nicely after the 2002 World Cup

**MIKE PLASTOW in Tokyo**

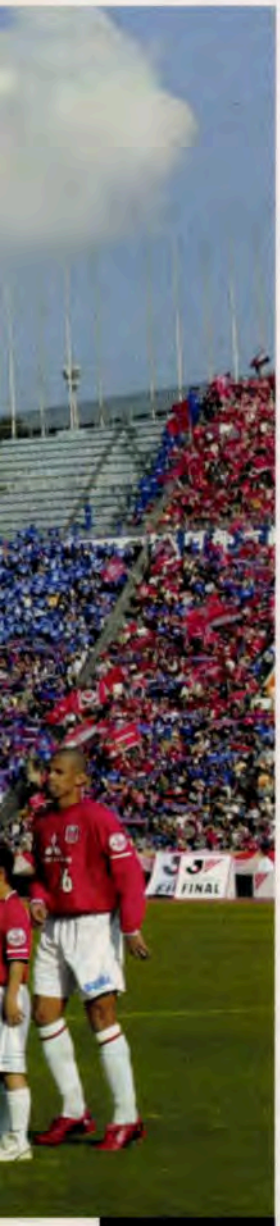
THE J.LEAGUE BEGAN its 13th season in March with a record number of clubs, 30, in the two divisions and every prospect of attendances rising to an all-time high. The First Division, now expanded to 18 teams from 16, kicked off with a string of surprise results that suggest an excitingly competitive campaign, and the national team stayed on course for Germany with vital World Cup qualifying wins against North Korea and Bahrain.

Despite dire predictions, there was no anti-climax after everyone went home from Japan after the 2002 World Cup. Japanese football still cannot quite compete with Europe's best, and the global attention has tailed off, but the success story continues.

The overall picture is one of steady growth. Attendances topped seven million for the first time last season, with the Division One average projected to pass 20,000 for the first time this year. Meanwhile, 23 of the then 28 clubs made a profit in 2003, the latest year for which figures are available.

The 2002 World Cup was always going to be a key moment. The late Prince Takamado, the personable patron of the FA who did so much for the Japanese game before and during the finals, used to say that the big test for Japan was "not hosting the World Cup but maintaining the momentum afterwards".

This has been done, largely thanks to the fact that the basic changes necessary for the domestic game had all been implemented by 2002. The dip in football's popularity during the late 1990s,



Showing the colours ...FC Tokyo and Urawa Reds fans provide a striking backdrop as their teams line up before a J.League game

when the average attendance fell to 10,131 and one club, Yokohama Flugels, disappeared in a merger, now seems a long time ago.

Scot Leslie Mottram, a former referee and now refereeing instructor in Japan, has been in the country off and on since 1996. He suggests that the watershed on the field came in 1999 with the start of the Second Division, "because that made the games more competitive". As for the World Cup, Mottram says that was chiefly a watershed for sponsorship: "Before 2002, the JFA simply wanted to qualify for the World Cup. Now, they know they have to."

### Proud tradition

What has happened to Japanese football in the past 13 years? The number of professional clubs has tripled, with several establishing a proud tradition. Kashima Antlers have won the League four times, Yokohama F Marinos and Jubilo Iwata three each. Other clubs such as Urawa Reds, FC Tokyo and Albirex Niigata enjoy fervent support, and of all the World Cup stadiums only the one in Miyagi could truly be called a white elephant. Modest spending, rich youth training schemes and close community involvement are now the hallmarks of the once glitzy League, and the crowds have retained their warm family atmosphere. As a real sign of health, more clubs are hoping to join the League.

The national team have also grown. Last year, Japan won away to the Czech Republic and drew in England in friendlies, and won their third Asian Cup out of four since 1992. They have lost only four of their last 32 games under Brazilian coach Zico, two of those against Argentina and Germany. Before France 98, Japan had never qualified for the World Cup – now, they are expected to do so.

On a day-to-day basis, of course, there are problems. Zico has to parry a barrage of criticism about his 'inexperience' and strategic limitations, not only from the media but now, apparently, also from his own players. After their first 2006 World Cup qualifying loss, away to Iran in March, captain Tsuneyasu Miyamoto and Hidetoshi Nakata reportedly persuaded Zico to change his formation for the home match against Bahrain, a creaky 1-0 win. The Brazilian's once godlike image has been undermined, despite some miraculous last-gasp wins. But, as his predecessor, Philippe Troussier, will testify, images can also be restored quickly in Japan. And as the results show, things aren't as bad as all that. Despite that loss to Iran, Japan are still second in their group at the halfway stage, and in line for automatic entry to the 2006 finals.

The J.League has also matured. Gradually, it has dispensed with unfamiliar extras such as deciding drawn games on penalty shoot-outs and awarding more points for winning matches during regular time. This year the two-stage league system and one-off championship decider have finally been abandoned. Now, the championship is a straightforward single league system, with the team gaining most points winning the title. It also seems likely that before long the season will kick off at the end of summer, instead of in spring, to fit in with the global calendar. The J.League has become uncannily normal.

The J.League remains one of football's 'good news' stories. The big experiment started with a lot of glitz, gimmicks and big stars, from Gary Lineker and Pierre Littbarski to Ramon Diaz. There was also a flood of Brazilian players, such as Zico, Dunga, Leonardo, Jorginho, Careca and Bebeto. Some of these stars made a huge contribution on and off the field, but most of that glitz is no longer needed. The League still has outstanding foreign players, but today's imports like Austrian Mario Haas and Bulgarian Ilian Stoyanov have been brought in solely to do a specific footballing job.

The fans also expect a lot more. Long gone are the days when the biggest cheers were accorded to impressively long goal-kicks.

So, how good is the football? There is still a lot of ground to make up, and the League's expansion has probably diluted the talent. The standard of football plummets below the top division and it will be many years before the Emperor's Cup – the national knockout tournament – offers a substantial number of competitive fixtures in the earlier rounds. Nor has the national team's continental success been mirrored by Japanese clubs in the Asian Champions League, which in any case is nothing like the standard of the European equivalent.

Yokohama F Marinos manager Takeshi Okada set a very reasonable tone last December after his side had won the championship for the second year running. "I always tell my players to think about what they can do now," he said. "No one ever knows what will happen, but we always have to do our best at each moment in the circumstances we have. After that, it's down to courage." That could well be said of the J.League experience as a whole.

**Debt to Kobe chief...Emerson Leao**

**● Coach Emerson Leao has proved there is still honour in football after quitting Brazilian championship hopefuls Sao Paulo five days before the season kicked off to take charge of struggling J.League side Vissel Kobe. Leao, a former Brazilian national team coach and previously in charge of Shimizu S-Pulse and Verdy Kawasaki in Japan, said he agreed to the move because he owed a "heart's debt" to Yasutoshi Miura, head of club operations at Kobe. Miura played under Leao when he was at Shimizu. "He was my player and he's now Vissel Kobe's manager. He called me asking for help, and I can't let him down," said Leao. Kobe contacted the Brazilian following the dismissal of Hideki Matsunaga after the club took just five points from their first six League games.**

## 'Before 2002, Japan simply wanted to reach the World Cup. Now they know they have to'

*Former referee Leslie Mottram, now a refereeing instructor in Japan*

**Over the next 10 pages we turn the spotlight on 21 young stars who could shine in Germany next summer**

# 'I'm not at all like Maradona'

## 1 Carlos Tevez

**Corinthians (Bra) & Argentina**

**Argentina are already virtually certain of reaching the World Cup finals. How well do you think they will do in Germany?**
Well, like all Argentinians, I hope we have more luck than at the last World Cup. Argentina has enough quality players to win every tournament. Last year we won the Olympic Games and we also deserved to win the Copa America [they lost to Brazil on penalties in the Final]. The senior squad has a lot of players that [coach] Jose Pekerman already knows well, players who won three Under-20 World Cups under him, and the way of playing is still the same. It isn't too different from [2002 World Cup coach] Marcelo Bielsa's team.

**You have been omitted from recent national squads recently. Why?**
It's some time since I spoke to Pekerman, but a few months ago he gave me a call and told me why I wasn't in the team, and I accepted his explanation. First, it was because I had played too many games during 2004 and hadn't had a rest. Second, it was because of some media scandals surrounding me, and he didn't want to expose me more to the press. Now, it all depends on me doing my job correctly with my club, Corinthians. If I do, then I can win a place in the team.

**What is your preferred formation and your preferred role in the national team?**
I like an attacking formation, one with three forwards and a playmaker, but it depends who you are playing against. I prefer to play near the penalty area; that's where I have played best, like I did at Boca Juniors and for Argentina at the Olympics.

**You signed for Corinthians in December. How difficult was it to leave Boca and Argentina?**
It was really hard to leave Boca because I love that team, and my dream is to go back some day and end my career there. The good thing about coming to Corinthians is that I'm only two hours away from Buenos Aires, so my friends and family can come and visit me and I can travel back there whenever I don't have to play.

**How are you settling in Brazil?**
Life in Sao Paulo is very similar to Buenos Aires, maybe a little bit more crazy because it's a bigger city and there are more people. But I feel calmer here. In the last few months in Argentina I didn't have a good time. The press and paparazzi didn't leave me alone for a single moment. And a lot of stories about me were invented.

**Do you expect the experience of playing in Brazil to improve you as a player?**
You learn things every day, especially at my age. In addition, now Daniel Passarella is the coach I am learning new ways to play. I have been very lucky because already I have had the chance to play under Carlos Bianchi, Bielsa and now Passarella.

**Does the fact that Passarella is Argentinian make things easier for you?**
No. You know what Passarella is like; he wants the best from you, so he is very demanding.

**Tell us about your relationship with him and what he might bring to Corinthians.**
On a personal level I have just got to know him recently, but I already had some idea of how he works. He is going to give Corinthians a strong personality because he was like that when he was a player and he likes his teams to play good football. Once we know each other better this can be the best team in Brazil and in South America.

**You changed agents a few days before the move to Corinthians. Why?**
That was a difficult decision to make because Roberto Tessone had been with me for many years. There were two factors – one was professional and the other personal – but I don't want to talk about that in public because it wouldn't be correct. [Rumours suggest that Tessone didn't want Tevez to move to another South American team, while the tabloid press in Argentina are thought to have found out about the pregnancy of Tevez's ex-girlfriend from Tessone.]

**How does it feel being the most expensive player in the history of South American football [Tevez cost £10million]?**
I don't really pay too much attention to that. Maybe the press and some of the supporters find that interesting, but my job is to play football the best I can for the club that bought me. I know that people will expect more from me than from other players, but I have to stay calm and focus on doing the things I know how to do on the pitch.

**The Argentinian government has investigated your transfer. Has this affected you?**
Not at all. I know that they are investigating more than 100 transfers, but the press talks about my one because it was the most expensive. I don't have a problem with the government investigation.

**You are the biggest of several big-name signings at Corinthians. But, as Real Madrid have shown, having too many 'galacticos' can make it difficult to forge a team and your side's early displays have been far from spectacular...**
It wasn't a worry for us but it's always the same: the press starts to talk too much, so the supporters get worked up. Aside from the fact that there are many good players in the team, we are just players like any others. But there is a kind of fantasy created around us, and that starts to make some people agitated. We know what we have and what we can give to this team, but we need time. We all believe we can do very well, but you can't pretend you are going to win everything overnight.

**You were linked to many top European clubs, including Chelsea, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, before you signed for Corinthians. Did you consider such a move?**
When I was told about the chance of a transfer to Bayern I was pretty keen on that option, but Boca didn't want to sell me at the time. If I had to choose another country, I think Spain and England could be nice, as their teams, or nearly all of them, attack all the time, and that's the way I am used to playing.

**Many in Argentina hail you as the new Maradona. How do you feel about that?**
I am not like Maradona at all. I feel very proud when people say that, but Diego has to be respected – you can't compare him with anyone else. It's like trying to compare God with someone – it's just impossible.

**Has Maradona given you any useful advice about how to handle your talent and the pressures of fame?**
Diego spoke to me several times when there were a lot of stupid things being said in Argentina about my private life. He has been very kind to me. He also gave me advice about football – he told me many times to work hard and be serious. He always says that he made a lot of mistakes and had to recognise them, and he has advised me about things I shouldn't do.

**He is obviously one of your main role models as a footballer. Who are the others?**
Diego is the most important one but I have learnt many things from Juan Roman Riquelme. I will never forget the day he gave me his boots as a gift after a match he played for Boca. I wasn't very well known then, I was playing in the reserves. But I wore them when I made my First Division debut and played very well, and continued to wear them for a long time. Now I have them at home, hidden away like a treasure.

**Like Maradona, you are from a poor background. Can you tell us a little bit about your childhood and the role that football played?**
I am from Fuerte Apache [a poor district of Buenos Aires, notorious for its crime and drug problems. Tevez is nicknamed The Apache]. That's where I learnt to be brave when I played football. Games were played for money, on pitches that had no grass, just mud, stones and broken bottles. You learn a lot of things there and I had a lot of fun. Coming from there, nothing in professional football can scare me. That's why I sometimes laugh when I'm asked if I'm nervous before a derby match or some other big game. This job is a lot of fun for me. I always remember what I saw and what I lived through in Fuerte Apache.

**You have just become a father [his ex-girlfriend recently gave birth to a girl, Florencia]. Do you plan to play an active role as a parent, even though you are no longer with your child's mother?**
Yes, of course, I am looking forward to it. I have a very good relationship with my ex-girlfriend. We respect each other a lot and she knows that she can count on me for anything she needs, even though I am now in Brazil.

**How would you describe your strengths as a footballer?**
I don't like to talk about myself like that.

**What are the areas of your game you feel you need to improve?**
Working on my heading is a must, but as I like the ball at my feet maybe I can leave that for my team-mates! And I'm always practising free-kicks.

**Will the world see the best of Tevez at the 2006 World Cup or will we have to wait longer?**
I hope that the world can see me in Germany. I hope that I am recalled to the national team in time for that. Of course I would like to be the best player of the competition, but I would swap that for Argentina winning the tournament. Next year it will be 20 years since Argentina last won the World Cup. It's time to win it again.

*Interview by Dan Brennan & Andres Garavaglia*

# Best in Brazil ready to test himself in Europe

## 2 Robinho

**Santos & Brazil**

"IT'S TOO EARLY to give guarantees," says Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, "but Robinho has everything in his favour to go to the World Cup."

Whether he makes the trip to Germany as star turn or bit-part player will be one of the most gripping plot lines in the footballing soap opera over the next 12 months.

There is little doubt the 21-year-old attacker is now the best player in Brazil. For the local press and public, their pride wounded by the constant talent drain to Europe, this title is often confused with that of the best Brazilian player. Just as they once pressed for Romario's inclusion in the national team, now they demand Robinho. But unlike Ronaldo, Kaka and Ronaldinho, the Santos wonderkid is not coming up against top-class opposition week in, week out. Indeed, on his big occasions – the 2003 Libertadores Cup Final and last year's South American Under-23 Championship – he looked a lightweight.

The most impressive thing about him, though, is the speed of his development. Parreira says: "He's shown considerable growth as a player and as a person. He's more mature on and off the field."

Robinho has come back stronger from his failures by working on his technical weak points and improving his tactical notion of how to use his skills to hurt the opposition.

The one time 'king of the dribble' is now much more than a winger. He has become adept at winning possession, he has taken giant strides with his combination play, and he has also started scoring penalty area poacher's goals.

The always astute former great Tostao places a question mark against him. "Robinho is already an exceptional striker," he says, "but it is unlikely that he will be as good and have the same worldwide prestige as Ronaldinho and Kaka. He lacks the physical structure of these two star players."

This is a worry Parreira shares. "Robinho needed to be stronger and he's been gaining in muscular mass," he said recently. "He needs more presence in the penalty area, so there's still room to improve."

That is why a move to Europe is a fascinating subject. Parreira makes no secret that he is very keen for Robinho to go, saying: "It might be bad for Brazilian football, but it will be very good for him."

Robinho's reaction to the endless speculation is revealing. "I can't help all the talk about Real Madrid and Barcelona, it's part of football," he says. "And if I play badly then people say that it's because my head is already in Europe. But for the moment I'm totally focused on the Libertadores Cup."

The Libertadores is all over by mid-July, so Robinho seems to be acknowledging that a year's European experience will be the best preparation for him to become one of the stars of Germany 2006.

*Tim Vickery*

# Force of nature blowing through English football

## 3 Wayne Rooney

**Manchester United & England**

AMID THE FRENZY of English football there is one issue on which everyone in the game is agreed. With Wayne Rooney in the team England could win the World Cup – and without him they will not.

Fact or fiction? Only time will tell. But for an entire soccer culture to rest its hopes so squarely on the shoulders of a player who is still a teenager is quite extraordinary. Especially in a nation where gifted youth, and gifted players of any age in fact, have long been mistrusted.

Sven Goran Eriksson, the allegedly cautious England coach, believes Rooney is the key to glory. So does club and country team-mate Gary Neville, a sceptic by nature. And the same goes for a rabid media which swings wildly between admiration for the kid's sporting talent and hackneyed, knee-jerk assassination of his character and lifestyle.

Why are they all so sure about Rooney's football? Sheer talent, of course. And his goals, his hunger and his imposing strength on the ball, illustrated by the way he shrugs off giant defenders with contemptuous ease.

The prime reason, though, is because of Rooney's rather un-English desire to accept the ball in tight situations and then use it to maximum advantage with a combination of his fabulous technique and instinctive soccer brain.

Eriksson saw this quality instantly, recognised it as the missing link for England, and thrust Rooney into his team as a raw 17-year-old for a vital Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey. Many sensible football men had advocated caution, among them former national team managers Terry Venables and Graham Taylor, and they were as delighted as anyone when the teenager had an outstanding match and proved them wrong.

It happened because Rooney is a force of nature. You witness that in his flashes of temper and in the power of his shooting, and in what Manchester United team-mate Neville describes as a "youngster who doesn't see anything different in international football from playing in the schoolyard".

One man close to Rooney's development told me that his form can depend as much as anything

on which side of the bed he gets out of each morning – and believes the key to the teenager fulfilling his phenomenal potential is the ability to control his tempestuous moods as he matures.

It is certainly noticeable that Rooney always seems to be alive for competitive England games, but has endured many off-colour days in club matches, whether for Manchester United or former club Everton. But the likeliest explanation is that week-in-week-out superstar consistency is too much to expect from a player still so young.

For the moment the 19-year-old must be judged on how the big matches inspire the best from him. He was a class apart for England at Euro 2004, and scored a hat-trick on his much-anticipated debut in the Champions League.

He has a precious gift, all right, and Eriksson summed it up best, saying recently: "All teams who win trophies have a player who can do something extra. We have more than one star but it is a privilege to work with Rooney. He will improve even more before the World Cup. He is very special and will get better and better."

Too much pressure for a kid? Rooney himself doesn't think so. He is said to resent comparisons to major talents of the past like George Best and Paul Gascoigne, particularly the implication that his career will be cut down by the eternal perils of fame, fortune and media hype.

He is right to resent it. Rooney is a different character; combative, mentally robust, but quieter in a crowd. He is hewn from granite rather than sandstone. His story will be his own – and it may well deliver treasure for England.

*Jim Holden*

## 4 Franklin Salas

**El Nacional & Ecuador**

ECUADOR'S NEW ATTACKING weapon is known as 'The Wizard' – "Perhaps," he says, "because I hide the ball well then suddenly reveal it with a back-heel or a dribble." His splendid balance and extravagant skills often make opponents wish they could magic him away. Salas sets up more goals than he scores. Even so, Ecuador coach Luis Fernando Suarez worries at his lack of physical strength, and all but five of his 19 caps have come as a substitute.

## 5 Sebastian Viera

**Nacional & Uruguay**

THE 2004 SEASON was significant for Sebastian Viera. He made his professional debut at the end of January and by July had become Uruguay's first-choice keeper. He was fast-tracked by national coach Jorge Fossati, himself a former keeper, and with just eight goals conceded in eight games has fully justified his rapid rise. Not the most athletic, but his sound positioning and shot-stopping have played a key part in tightening up Uruguay's defence.

## 6 Vahid Hashemian

**Bayern Munich (Ger) & Iran**

AFTER SCORING GOALS galore for Bochum in 2003-04, the Iranian striker has been a peripheral figure at Bayern this season. But the lack of first-team action has not at all blunted his scoring touch at international level. He was twice on target in Iran's crucial 2-1 World Cup qualifying victory over Japan in Tehran in March.

# Basque playmaker standing out from the crowd

## 7 Francisco Yeste

**Athletic Bilbao & Spain**

ATHLETIC BILBAO playmaker Francisco Yeste has always stood out. Even as a kid he was, by his own admission, "a bit naughty", and he has been pretty conspicuous ever since.

His hair has gone from bleach blond to entirely absent and from mullet to Mohican to hair extensions fashioned from Athletic red and white feathers; he certainly isn't lying when he says there's nothing he wouldn't try. As one columnist rather strangely put it: "Yeste can be a kangaroo with boots on, a sea-horse or Medusa's nephew."

In fact, he is a lorry driver's son who has posed for a women's magazine but went a whole year without speaking to the press after reports of his night on the tiles with best mate and team-mate Asier Del Horno and the Athletic kit man ended with the poor laundry-lugger getting the sack. Yeste is, as Spain's best-selling newspaper, put it, "a rebel; different from the rest – for good and bad".

Mostly good. He has never been more conspicuous than when he celebrated a brilliant UEFA Cup goal by dropping his shorts to reveal a marvellous pair of red-and-white striped Athletic underpants. But instead of castigating him, the club relished the commercial boom sparked by Yeste's unusual declaration of his commitment to the cause. Demand for Athletic pants went through the roof, and the club shop couldn't keep up with the orders. Yeste had become Athletic's very own *galactico*; David Beckham has his shirts, Yeste his pants. The fact that fans rushed out to buy them spoke volumes about Yeste's iconic status and his ability, which has belatedly brought him a Spain cap but surely must lead to many, many more.

Not least because the Basque has started adding real consistency to his game. Under coach Ernesto Valverde, promoted to the first team having worked with Athletic's youth set-up, Yeste is becoming a leader, taking on ever greater responsibility. At 25, he is hardly a prodigy, but there is something fresh about him, a sense of an emerging talent.

Having started as a left-back, Yeste moved into left midfield. Now he is given some licence to roam. Last season he was the club's top scorer and is well

# Midfield general driving Ukraine

## 8 Anatoliy Tymoshchuk

**Shakhtar Donetsk & Ukraine**

UKRAINE MAY HAVE Andrii Shevchenko, the reigning European Footballer of the Year, in their ranks but as a team their story to date is one of underachievement. Almost 14 years after the country gained independence, the national side have yet to reach the finals of a major tournament. And even now, with Ukraine heading their World Cup qualifying group, a note of caution is in the air.

"We are top of our group, although we still have five crucial games left, which means that the current three-point lead [over European champions Greece] doesn't mean we are through," says Anatoliy Tymoshchuk, a virtual ever-present since his debut in April 2000. "If we take maximum points from our remaining games, then we will have something to celebrate."

The 26-year-old Shakhtar Donetsk captain has played a major part in keeping Ukraine out front in Group 2. In the 1-0 home victory over Denmark at the end of March, Tymoshchuk put in a typically athletic performance to win his midfield duel with Real Madrid's Thomas Gravesen. But events in the run-up to that match help explain Tymoshchuk's reluctance to count his chickens about World Cup qualification.

Coach Oleh Blokhin stepped down two weeks before the Denmark game after the Ukrainian parliament questioned the legality of him combining his football work with his role as an MP. Blokhin did retake the national team reins, and his ability to hold both posts was ruled acceptable by the Appeal Court, but Tymoshchuk admits this sequence of events has not helped the team's cause.

"I don't understand why the issue of [Blokhin's] combined role wasn't raised before the qualifying campaign," he says. "Pursuit of success has never been helped by scandal. Those involved were thinking least about the players, the fans and the image of Ukraine. It wasn't a good feeling losing our head coach at such a crucial period."

The win over Denmark was all the more impressive given that it was achieved without the injured Shevchenko. The three points were valuable, but so too was the performance, which proved that Ukraine are far from a one-man team.

Not too many Ukrainians have been drawn to western Europe in Shevchenko's slipstream, but Tymoshchuk, for one, is keen to follow him. Recent interest from Shevchenko's club, Milan, faded when Shakhtar ruled out the sale of such a key player while they were still in Europe (in the UEFA Cup). However, Tymoshchuk is confident further options will appear this summer.

"Italy, Spain or England would suit me," says the midfielder. "But I'll only move to a club challenging for domestic and European honours. I'm always surprised more top European clubs haven't looked to Ukraine. Players here are talented, hard-working and know how to adapt."

Assuming politics don't get in the way again, Tymoshchuk and the rest of the national team should get a chance to prove that claim next summer.

*Dan Brennan*

on the way to repeating the feat again. He had 12 goals in all competitions by the end of April, including some wonderful strikes, like the impossibly tight-angled finish against Real Betis.

But Yeste is more about creation, controlling games, being the classic playmaker, complete with sweatbands, No 10 shirt outside his shorts and the classic left-footer's languid gait.

"He has that laid-back, graceful air all geniuses have," wrote one columnist. "He has style and ability only a privileged few can boast – those who can think about girls or cars while they're performing nutmegs, cut-backs or back-heels."

True, but this also makes Yeste sound less determined, less reliable, less central than he has become. Over the past two seasons, and this term in particular, he has really taken Athletic on.

The question is whether he will be given the chance to do the same with Spain when coach Luis Aragones, whose ideas change radically by the day, can also call on the likes of Jose Antonio Reyes, Guti, Ivan De la Pena, Raul and Xavi. Especially since there are unfortunate – and so often deeply unfair – doubts about the commitment of Basque players to the *seleccion*.

But it would be a criminal waste not to call on Yeste. There is no doubt that he deserves it and is up to it. When Athletic gave a superb second-half performance to beat Real Madrid 2-0 at the Bernabeu recently, one tactical switch was especially significant. "We had to get Yeste the ball," said Valverde. Which rather says it all.

*Sid Lowe*

## 9 Kanga Akale

**Auxerre (Fra) & Ivory Coast**

DON'T BE FOOLED by the loping stride. The Auxerre left-winger is a highly-skilled operator and could turn out to be the ideal supply line for Ivory Coast strikers Didier Drogba and Aruna Dindane. Full of outrageous tricks.

## 10 Ryan Babel

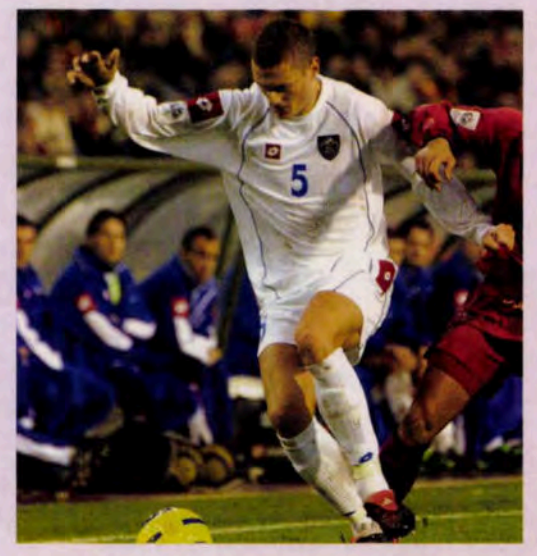
**Ajax & Holland**

BRIGHT, SKILFUL FINISHER who has gone from the Ajax youth team to first XI in the blink of an eye. Won his first senior cap in the recent World Cup qualifier against Romania, celebrating with a goal in Holland's 2-0 win. Patrick Kluivert without the attitude.

## 11 Nemanja Vidic

**Moscow Spartak (Rus) & Serbia & Montenegro**

STURDY, COMPOSED central defender who enjoyed a remarkable full debut for Serbia & Montenegro back in October 2002, marking Italy striker Pippo Inzaghi out of a European Championship qualifier in Naples which ended 1-1. Despite being linked with a host of Serie A clubs, he moved from Red Star Belgrade to Moscow Spartak last year, a deal that made him the highest-paid defender in the Russian top flight.



# Lyon king could be Domenech's flexible friend

## 12 Sidney Govou

**Lyon & France**

A CONSTANT CRITICISM of French national coach Raymond Domenech is that he is too clever by half, that he does not always select players in their best positions. But he could never be accused of misusing front-runner Sidney Govou. The latter is far too versatile.

The 25-year-old Lyon star is able to employ his scorching speed, directness and flair in an orthodox striking role, as a slightly withdrawn attacker, wide on the right or in midfield. Should France qualify for World Cup 2006 – which is by no means a foregone conclusion – his adaptability could be a huge plus for *Les Bleus* during the month-long tournament.

"The great advantage of Sidney is that he can play almost anywhere," says Domenech, who was also Govou's coach at Under-21 level. "He'd be worth a place in any team. He has it in him to do a job in attack, in midfield or even in defence. Explain to him what you expect and he does it. He's very disciplined, and whatever the position, he puts himself at the service of the team.

"His other great asset is his speed. He doesn't just sprint quickly but repeats that sort of run again and again. That takes its toll on defenders. Some think he is less spectacular than a Henry or a Cisse but I don't think he's any less quick. Govou is just as explosive as them."

Govou, reported to be on the shopping list of Serie A and Premiership clubs, has come a long way since breaking into the Lyon first team in 2000-01. Back then he cut the figure of an over-charged electron, buzzing around, head down, with little thought. Now he plays with much more intelligence. He times his runs better and is much more aware of the position of team-mates.

Lyon's 7-2 Champions League thumping of Werder Bremen in March perfectly showcased the new, improved Govou. Although he didn't score, his contribution was immense, relentlessly perforating the opposition back line with his pace and tricks, and playing a part in four Lyon goals.

He is a fast-maturing player and it was no surprise that Lyon boss Paul Le Guen handed him the captain's armband last autumn following a serious knee injury to Brazilian centre-back Claudio Cacapa. "It was a natural choice," explained Le Guen. "Sidney's authority within the team has been growing for some time now."

Ironically for someone who in his youth aspired to be a physiotherapist, Govou's one drawback is a certain frailty of body. A torn thigh muscle kept him out of Euro 2004 and he has regularly pulled out of internationals with a variety of knocks and niggles. Domenech, a self-confessed student of astrology, will no doubt be checking his charts and hoping the stars make Govou available in Germany next year.

*Nick Bidwell*

# Keeper staying on at Stuttgart to stake claim

## 13 Timo Hildebrand

**Stuttgart & Germany**

OLIVER KAHN or Jens Lehmann? The two Germany goalkeepers may both be past their best but one of them will surely be on the field when the hosts kick off next year's World Cup, especially since national coach Jurgen Klinsmann has given his seal of approval to both.

Yet nothing is certain until that opening match gets under way. At least, that is the belief guiding Stuttgart's Timo Hildebrand.

The 26-year-old appears to have time on his side to eventually make the *Nationalmannschaft* keeping berth his own. Bayern Munich's Kahn and Arsenal's Lehmann are both 35 and surely in the final few years of their international careers.

But the Stuttgart keeper has grown impatient to make a more immediate claim on the Germany jersey since making his national team debut against Romania in April last year. Indeed, many in the German media believe Hildebrand and his agent deliberately stymied recent contract negotiations with Stuttgart in order to allow him a profile-raising move to a top foreign club.

Stuttgart opened talks last autumn about Hildebrand's contract, which was due to expire at the season's end. But despite offering to more than double his salary to £1.2million a year, Hildebrand announced just after Christmas that he would be on his way in June. It was not money but profile that appeared to matter most to him.

Stuttgart president Erwin Staudt recognised the painful truth, saying: "Hildebrand is a top-class goalkeeper and his decision is very upsetting, because he has done well by us and I think we have done well by him. Very possibly, the World Cup is playing on his mind, though I'm not sure leaving here will make a difference."

Hildebrand was linked with various clubs in Spain and Italy as well as Arsenal and Manchester United. But for once his timing let him down. Just after he announced his decision to move on, he let in six goals in a week, including four at home, to jeers from the Stuttgart faithful, in the regional derby against Nurnberg.

Suddenly, a week after that, Hildebrand changed his mind. He had, it was reported, sacked his agent, then negotiated a two-year extension

with Stuttgart worth £1.3m per year. The keeper denied it all. But one way or another his self-control had reasserted itself under pressure.

"When it came to deciding between what my head and my heart were telling me, I have to say that the heart won," said Hildebrand. "There were plenty of offers but it wasn't a matter of money in the end. If it were, there's no way I would be staying on."

Stuttgart's relief at Hildebrand's change of heart was balanced by media criticism that he had revealed a character defect, lacking the self-confidence to move abroad.

Hildebrand laughed it off, saying: "Nonsense. I have signed to stay at Stuttgart for a further two years so, clearly, one day I want the opportunity to decide again. I have set myself the goal of doing all I can to improve as a professional and as a goalkeeper. I have no intention of letting my career stand still."

Such controversy was a far cry from autumn 2003 when Hildebrand was twice voted player of the month as he beat Kahn's clean sheet record of 803 minutes and carried on to 884.

Stuttgart's then coach Felix Magath, now at Bayern, described him as "our most improved player", and Hildebrand predicted he would be the No 1 for Germany in time for 2006.

"I don't have a lobby working on my behalf," said the keeper this spring while signing a promotional deal for tyre company Continental. "I'll just have to let my form speak for me."

The odd puncture for Kahn and Lehmann would hardly harm his cause, of course.

*Keir Radnedge*

## 14 Carlos Salcido

**Guadalajara & Mexico**

SOLID AND WATCHFUL, the left-sided defender has not put a foot wrong since given his first cap in Mexico's World Cup qualifying win in Trinidad & Tobago last autumn. At his best in a three-man back line but can also play at left-back and as a defensive midfielder.

## 15 Lukas Podolski

**Koln & Germany**

POLAND-BORN BUT a naturalised German, the teenage striker has all the raw materials needed for a superlative international career: extreme pace, technical brilliance, shooting power and utter fearlessness. Currently spearheading the Koln attack in the Second Division but could soon be snapped up by Bayern Munich.

## 16 Marek Jankulovski

**Udinese (Ita) & Czech Republic**

A DYNAMIC PRESENCE on the left side of Udinese's midfield, he is arguably the best in that position in Serie A. But for the Czech Republic, he usually lines up at left-back, a spot where he is no less effective. Milan and Juventus are vying for his signature.

# Inter's young gun aiming to fire for Nigeria

## 17 Obafemi Martins

**Internazionale (Ita) & Nigeria**

**With the long-term injury absence of Adriano and things not going so well for Christian Vieri, you are now thought of as Inter's most potent attacking threat. How does that feel?**
I don't really see it that way – I'm just a young player who has scored for Inter. There's no way you can consider yourself the linchpin of a team that has players of the calibre of Javier Zanetti, Materazzi, Veron, Mihajlovic and Stankovic.

**Inter lost to Milan in the Champions League quarter-finals. Why do you think your club have missed out on silverware in recent years?**
We came close to beating Milan in the Champions League semi-finals in 2003 [Milan went through on away goals]. We also came very close to winning the Serie A title in 2002, when Juventus won it, and we reached the Champions League quarter-finals this season. I think that shows we are doing very well. We just need that extra boost that self-confidence can bring.

**Are Champions League games more or less easy than Serie A games, from a striker's point of view?**
In Champions League games there is greater space to play in, except when you play Milan.

**How would you describe Inter's style of play?**
[Coach Roberto] Mancini's aim is clear – to play at high speed, exploiting each individual's abilities to the full. We also have a lot of possession.

**I've heard that you call Adriano 'little brother'.**
Well, we're the same generation [Martins is 20, Adriano 23], we like the same music, and we enjoy the same movies. After training, we often go for a meal – usually at one of his favourite Brazilian restaurants.

**And is it right Vieri calls you 'little brother'?**
It's different with him; he really is a big brother. I can't tell you how much he has helped me – he really looked after me from the moment I arrived. He taught me to keep my head, not to try anything spectacular but to grow steadily, and above all to concentrate hard during training sessions. It's a real lesson to watch him in training – to see how hard he works and gets the best out of the other players.

**Do you think you've grown during your time at Inter?**
Certainly. It was a nice surprise when Inter signed me two years ago, and I surprised even myself. Now I'm no longer the new boy but an integral part of Inter, and I think I've won their admiration. Tactically, I've developed too; rather than playing as an individual I now work as part of the team. I'm better able to see where space is opening up.

**Tell us a bit about your background.**
I was born in Lagos on October 28, 1984, and I have two brothers, one of whom, Oladipupo Olarotini, plays for Partizan Belgrade, while the other, John Abiola, who's just 15, plays back home in Nigeria. My father died recently, but he lived long enough to see some of my greatest goals, including the one against Milan in the Champions League two years ago. He had wanted me to study to become a doctor, but in the end was happy to settle for my footballing success. I first began to kick a ball about in the streets of Orile, my home district of Lagos, and then I was selected for the Ebedei footballing school that had been set up by Sunday Oliseh and his brother Churchill. The reason I went to Reggiana, my first club in Italy, was because Sunday Oliseh used to play for them.

**How are things with the national side?**
Nigeria is so rich in strikers you can never be certain of your place. My dream is to play alongside my friend Ayodele Makinwa, of Atalanta, with Jay-Jay Okocha behind. Then there's Julius Aghahowa – a crazy guy!

**How do you get along with Nigeria's coach, Christian Chukwu?**
He's very enthusiastic and he always asks us to give our all, and to make our people happy. Life isn't easy for many people in Nigeria, and football can help them forget their troubles.

**Which African player do you admire most?**
Taribo West, who played with Inter. And then there's our national captain, Okocha, who is a phenomenon. And George Weah, of course.

**Weah was the first African to be European Footballer of the Year. Who will be the next?**
I think that's between Makinwa and myself.

*Interview by Dominique Antognoni*

## 18 Eddie Johnson

**FC Dallas & United States**

SEVEN GOALS IN six games has made Florida-born Johnson one of the most talked-about players of the 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign. After a difficult start at Dallas, the 22-year-old has blossomed into a fine prospect. His pace and athleticism will make him a likely starter for the USA in Germany.

## 19 Tim Cahill

**Everton (Eng) & Australia**

OCEANIA'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR has had an outstanding first season at Everton as they push for a Champions League place. He was only 14 when he represented Western Samoa, his mother's country, at Under-20 level. A change in FIFA regulations allowed him to appear for Australia and he has been quick to establish himself, with seven goals in five matches.

## 20 Miguel

**Benfica & Portugal**

FORMER BENFICA COACH Jose Antonio Camacho knew what he was doing when converting Miguel from a winger to a right-back some two years ago. Excellent going forward and his defensive work has improved a great deal too.

## 21 Alberto Gilardino

**Parma & Italy**

IT'S AN OPEN secret in Italy that Gilardino will leave relegation-threatened Parma for a bigger club this summer. Juventus and Milan are said to lead the chase for the striker, who has established himself in the national side under new coach Marcello Lippi. The rapid progress of Gilardino has meant that the likes of Christian Vieri, Filippo Inzaghi and Alessandro Del Piero are fast becoming yesterday's men.

# New king of the Kop

Keir Radnedge on Rafa Benitez, the man who outwitted Jose Mourinho

Anfield revolution...Benitez has steered Liverpool to the Champions League Final in his first season in charge

THE SHADOW of Gerard Houllier hangs over Rafa Benitez despite his success in steering Liverpool – against the odds and the draw – to the Champions League Final in his first season.

When Houllier was a new kid on the Anfield block he generated professions of undying loyalty from the Kop for the remarkable 2001 of the five cups: League Cup, FA Cup, UEFA Cup, Charity Shield and European Supercup.

But the anticipated progress to Premiership success proved elusive. Houllier's health problems compounded by some unfortunate transfer dealings, the distractions of the new stadium proposals plus the boardroom power game all drained energy away from the pitch. One further League Cup triumph in 2003 was all Houllier had to show over the next three years and his departure last summer was thus inevitable.

Liverpool fans hanker after a return to the good old days when they dominated both at home and abroad. The ideal scenario sees domestic success followed by international expansion but Benitez, like Houllier before him, has turned that cliche around. A run of 13 defeats in 36 Premiership games was an odd platform on which to build the overthrow of Chelsea on that dramatic, old-fashioned glory night at Anfield.

Was it a goal? Referee Lubos Michel was perfectly placed to judge that Luis Garcia's flick had crossed the line before the desperate clearance by William Gallas. Liverpool will not pause long to worry about the rights and wrongs. They have conceded enough controversial goals in Europe down the years, right the way back to the beating by Internazionale in Milan in 1965. They also 'owed' Chelsea after the luckless own goal from Steven Gerrard which gave Jose Mourinho's men their League Cup Final lifeline in Cardiff in February.

But Benitez, having struggled with a season-long injury crisis, goalkeeping confusion plus the irritating uncertainty over Gerrard's future, relies on hard work not luck. That is the 'secret' of his success which has so far earned promotion for Tenerife and two Spanish championships for Valencia with last season's UEFA Cup thrown in for good measure.

But for Rafael Benitez Maudes, guiding Liverpool to Champions League glory would far outstrip anything else he has achieved. Even reaching the Final had struck a blow for the Arrigo Sacchi dictum. This states that "you don't have to have been a horse to be a successful jockey" – i.e. that a starry playing career is not essential for coaching success.

### Early ambition

Benitez, at 44 not only the most successful Spanish coach at the moment but also the youngest, built his initial reputation as a youth coach at Real Madrid. His ambition far outstripped his appreciation of the security of a role as faithful retainer so he parachuted out in 1995 to learn his coaching craft with Valladolid, Osasuna, Extremadura and Tenerife before succeeding Internazionale-bound Hector Cuper at Valencia.

It's been success ever since.

Whether that qualified Benitez for the Liverpool

Destination Istanbul...Liverpool players celebrate

heritage was another matter. Liverpool fans are a demanding bunch, brought up to expect maintenance of the massive tradition which has brought four European Cup wins and 18 League titles. But they last won the European Cup in 1984 and their most recent domestic championship came in 1990, in pre-Premiership days.

Benitez had barely arrived before Michael Owen was sold to Real Madrid, further complicating his reconstruction work. Thus Liverpool, despite reaching Istanbul, remain a team in transition. Injuries carved significant chunks out of the season for main men such Milan Baros, Didi Hamann, Xabi Alonso and Djibril Cisse. They failed to compete with the Premiership's top three and some of their domestic performances, woven in between the heady European victories over Leverkusen, Juventus and Chelsea, have been simply awful.

Reaching Istanbul was discounted by all but the super-optimistics when Liverpool only just squeaked through, 2-1 on aggregate, against Grazer AK in the third qualifying round.

Defender Jamie Carragher, magnificent in the second half of the season, says: "At the start of the season, we felt it would probably be an achievement just to get through the group stage under a new coach because we were rebuilding. Being in the Final now shows how far we've come under Rafa Benitez."

### Loner with a laptop

Benitez once described himself as a "loner with a laptop" because of his obsession with footballing detail. He has always stressed the importance of unity. After Valencia's 2-0 UEFA Cup Final win over Marseille last year, he said: "We had some great individual performances. But above all, we're a team whose players can all depend on each other."

Benitez quickly broke up the Anfield cliques and brought in Spain-based players he knew and trusted – Luis Garcia, Josemi, Xabi Alonso, the makeweight Antonio Nunez, the Euro-ineligible Mauricio Pellegrino and Fernando Morientes – to bolster what was already there.

Finding the right blend amid the Premiership frenzy has not been easy. Benitez believes it will be next season before Liverpool's imports can fully handle the physical demands of English football.

Goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek says: "They are two different games. The Premiership is much harder with a lot of physical challenges. In the Champions League, the game is not so fast and physical. We can play our football and that suits us."

In fact, Liverpool were three minutes from going out at the group stage, before Gerrard's 87th-minute strike sank Olympiakos 3-1 and carried Liverpool into the last 16. Leverkusen were beaten 3-1 both home and away before Liverpool withstood the emotional pressure of the Heysel anniversary to outrun but also outwit Juventus 2-1 at home, goalless away, despite the injury absence of Gerrard. Benitez said: "We had a plan to defend high up the pitch and we carried it out. The whole team did their jobs."

Twice then Liverpool kept clean sheets against Chelsea, who were reduced in each leg to hitting high balls towards the heads of Didier Drogba and Mateja Kezman. Luis Garcia's controversial strike was enough. Benitez says: "Before the Champions League started I would have been absolutely delighted with a semi-final place. Now hard work has brought us an even better opportunity."

Hopefully the vast distance Liverpool have come under Benitez will not be forgotten should Istanbul not turn out quite as he hopes.

Hands-on success...Benitez lifts the UEFA Cup last year

## LIVERPOOL – HOW THEY LINE UP

### THE FORMATION

Essentially 4-4-2, with Didi Hamann as the midfield shield in front of the defence and Luis Garcia often dropping to right midfield, allowing Steven Gerrard to take a more central role.

### SELECTION DILEMMAS

Rafa Benitez must decide who to drop from midfield to accommodate the return of Xabi Alonso from suspension. Igor Biscan, a strong performer in Europe, is likeliest to make way. In attack, Djibril Cisse's amazing recovery from a broken leg means Benitez must choose between the Frenchman's pace and power, and the predatory instincts of Milan Baros.

### THE KEY MEN

Steven Gerrard: the most important figure in the side, a driving force in midfield who will have to deny space to Milan playmaker Andrea Pirlo, while also deploying his not inconsiderable creative skills.

Driving force...Gerrard

Luis Garcia: Liverpool's top scorer in Europe this season. Has the pace to trouble Milan's defence.

Xabi Alonso: brilliant passer whose midfield influence will be crucial if Liverpool are to maintain a high-tempo game to unsettle Milan.

Jamie Carragher: immense against Chelsea and the man most capable of stopping Andrii Shevchenko.

Didi Hamann: the midfielder most likely to be delegated to shadow Kaka.

Jerzy Dudek: brilliant keeper on his day, but also prone to handling howlers.

Djibril Cisse: powerful striker whose pace will be needed if Liverpool are to take the game to Milan, just as they did against Juventus.

### THE SUBSTITUTES

Scott Carson (keeper), Igor Biscan, Harry Kewell, Antonio Nunez, Vladimir Smicer, Milan Baros.

Holding his own...Maldini vies with PSV's Park Ji-sung during the Champions League semi-final first leg in April

# Maldini's mission

**For Milan's captain, victory in Istanbul would be the pinnacle of a glorious career. By Paddy Agnew**

WHEN PAOLO MALDINI leads out Milan in the Champions League Final, fans and commentators alike may feel it could be the last time they see the great man on the world stage. At 36, going on 37, where better to retire than at the top, captaining your side in the biggest European club match?

Not so fast. Maldini currently has a contract with Milan through to 2007, and up at the Milanello training complex, they fully expect their charismatic skipper to lead out the team next season. As of now, thoughts of retirement are for the end of next season or, indeed, the season after that.

Given the form he has shown this term, it is understandable that both Maldini and Milan find it hard to consider his retirement. Twenty years after his Serie A debut, Maldini is still strutting his stuff to telling effect. He still looks like the real thing.

In an interview earlier this year with sports daily *Gazzetta Dello Sport*, Maldini willingly admitted that his thoughts did occasionally turn to the concept of life after football. "I've been thinking about it for two or three years without being able to make up my mind as to what I will do," he said. "The ideal thing would be to create another role for yourself in football, but I've always said that I don't want to be a coach; you suffer too much."

For the time being, however, his appetite and enthusiasm for the game remain strong and healthy. "I still like the atmosphere in the dressing-room; it's a place that becomes your home, you're in there with a lot of young people, there's lots of fun, jokes, chat, and we all work together without envy. Retirement won't depend on my level of motivation, which is still intact, but on my body. The older you get, the more your body cracks and creaks, the harder training gets."

Nor has the sheer longevity of his career dulled his appetite for top-level success. In particular, as he recalls in his book, *I, Paolo Maldini* (published this year), the Champions Cup/League has a particular fascination for him. "If I was to tell the story of my career," he writes, "I would start with one or two important places – the San Siro, home to me and still the stadium that most stirs me up. Then, too, I would have to add Old Trafford, the place where I won my most recent Champions League medal [in 2003]. To tell the truth, I can hardly recall the first Champions League Final we won [1989, v Steaua Bucharest] even if for a lot of Milan fans that match remains mythical...When you're lucky enough to win a lot, it ends up that you don't even remember what you've won or how you won it.

"I know people will think it strange that the match I remember best is a Final we won in a penalty shoot-out, whereas that first win was utterly one-sided and a match that probably changed the club's history. Yet I'll never forget the joy I felt when, for the first time as captain, I held aloft the Cup at Old Trafford. Everything was brilliantly organised that night, very theatrical, with our lap of the pitch and the ceremony. At Old Trafford, I really had the feeling of being on stage at the end of a flawless rendition."

That "flawless rendition" was one of the high points of a career that began on a bitterly cold, snowy Friuli afternoon in January 1985. An injury

Final joy…celebrating the 1989 win over Steaua

crisis had prompted Milan's Swedish coach Nils Liedholm to draft in the 16-year-old Maldini for a game at Udinese. As he sat quietly on the dressing-room bench at half-time, Liedholm came over to him to say: "Get yourself ready, boy. By the way, which side do you prefer to play on?"

"On the right, please, mister," came the answer from the teenager.

## Changing sides

There is one of the curious things about Maldini. Not many would guess that the player who for the past decade and more has been widely considered one of the outstanding left-backs in world football is actually a natural right-footer who began his career in the right-back berth.

The sheer volume of Maldini statistics is overwhelming. He has won four European Cups and seven Italian League titles. He is the most capped player in Italian football history with 126, 74 of those as captain. He played in four World Cup finals and three European Championship finals before retiring from international football after Korea/Japan 2002. He is currently second on the all-time list for Serie A appearances (only Dino Zoff is ahead of him). And he has played out his entire career with just one club.

However, for those of us who have watched Maldini over the past 20 years, he represents more than just sporting excellence. In the ever-more tabloid, pressurised world of top-level football, he has been a rare voice of sanity, moderation, sportsmanship and good manners.

He has never been one to milk the hype. Put simply, he was born to play football, being the son of Cesare Maldini, captain of Milan's 1963 European Cup-winning side, an Italian international and, of course, Italy's coach at France 98.

Maldini junior has always tried to steer clear of FootBiz glamour, preferring the company of his extended family (his father Cesare, his Venezuelan wife Adriana and their two small boys, Daniel and Christian) to that of cinema stars and TV personalities. And when he talks publicly (rare enough, these days), it is usually to say something intelligent. For example, reflecting earlier this year on his Milan debut, he said: "In those days, it was easier for young players. I started at 16 because, with a couple of players injured, there was a chance. Today, all the big clubs have 25 or more players in their squad and that makes it very, very hard for a youngster to get a break."

Ask him who was the best player he ever played against and the answer is revealing: "Diego Maradona. He was not only the greatest but also the most honest. He was a model of good behaviour on the pitch – he was respectful of everyone, from the great players down to the ordinary team member. He was always getting kicked around and he never complained – not like some of today's strikers, *mamma mia*!"

Even though Maldini played in seven major international tournaments without winning one, he has no complaints about his long Italy career. "I'm satisfied. I know we didn't win anything but for 14 years I was playing on the big stage," he says. "I played in some fantastic games."

When he does finally retire at club level, he will take with him some happy memories of the Champions League. In particular, his mind goes back to that 2003 Final, against Juventus in Manchester. "Forty years after my father had held aloft the Champions Cup at Wembley, there I was winning it. I'll never forget it."

Perhaps there is another even better night awaiting him in Istanbul this month.

Pain and gain…at the 1994 World Cup, where Italy lost in the Final, and with the Champions Cup in 2003 after victory over Juventus at Old Trafford

## MILAN – HOW THEY LINE UP

### THE FORMATION

Coach Carlo Ancelotti favours 4-3-1-2, with Andrea Pirlo the midfield pivot and playmaker Kaka the attacking brains behind the front men.

### SELECTION DILEMMAS

Jaap Stam could lose out to Alessandro Nesta and Paolo Maldini in central defence, allowing Kakha Kaladze to adopt a more attacking left-back role than Maldini would otherwise take. The major decision up front is between Hernan Crespo, out of form of late, and Jon Dahl Tomasson as a partner for Andrii Shevchenko. Alternatively, Ancelotti could bring in Rui Costa alongside Kaka and play Shevchenko as a lone striker. If Ancelotti wants a more defensive formation, he could bring in Massimo Ambrosini as a fourth midfielder.

Top keeper…Dida

### THE KEY MEN

Cafu & Kakha Kaladze: despite Milan's defensive reputation, the full-backs love to rampage down the flanks.
Andrea Pirlo: the midfield shield who has a role in all of Milan's passing moves.
Kaka: brilliant young Brazilian whose pace and invention in the final third of the pitch make him very dangerous.
Andrii Shevchenko: a highly effective finisher – but lucky to be playing in the Final after butting Inter's Materazzi in the quarter-finals.
Jon Dahl Tomasson: an intelligent finder and user of space in and around the penalty box.
Dida: one of Milan's heroes from the 2003 Final penalty shoot-out win against Juventus. Now one of the world's top five keepers.
Serginho: a likely sub, but his pace on the left flank can cause problems late in a game.

### THE SUBSTITUTES

Christian Abbiati (keeper), Jaap Stam, Rui Costa, Massimo Ambrosini, Hernan Crespo, Serginho.

# Technical directors

## 1 Frank Arnesen

## Top wheeler-dealer

FRANK ARNESEN'S office at Tottenham Hotspur is spartan, the walls bare save for a few shelves of match videos and soccer reference books. The sole memento of his own outstanding playing career is a tiny picture from the mid-1980s Danish Dynamite team.

He talks with verve about those heady days, saying nothing will ever beat playing. But he's almost as effusive about his role as a technical director, currently at Spurs and for the previous decade at PSV Eindhoven.

Arnesen waves a thick wad of paper as he talks – his famous wish list. It is a precious document because the Dane has earned a reputation over the past decade as Europe's most effective transfer wheeler-dealer. He took Ronaldo from Brazil to Eindhoven as a 17-year-old, and spotted Ruud Van Nistelrooy, Arjen Robben and so many others. Now he is using the same system to search for sparkling new talent for Tottenham.

"I have a wish list of players across the world," says Arnesen, who left Denmark along with Soren Lerby to join Ajax at the age of 16. "We scout everyone, from the age of six or seven through junior and youth football to players at other senior clubs. We try to leave nothing to chance.

"It is all about securing the future of the club by bringing in talent. My work here is for the future, for tomorrow. You also want to be in a position to replace players in the first team if necessary. I always want to know we have two or three possibilities for every position.

"I have a big meeting of the scouts every week. I talk to agents all the time. I have the list, which keeps developing and changing. I think it's a system that works." Arnesen's record bears that out.

It is an imprecise science, though, and one that becomes more difficult as other clubs follow his lead and regulations alter. "I started at PSV in 1994," he says. "You could take Brazilians at the age of 16 then. That's what happened with Ronaldo. It couldn't happen in England today because the rules are stricter about foreign players and they are all already known. I couldn't get a Ronaldo for Tottenham, not unless he had an EU passport, from a Portuguese grandfather, for example.

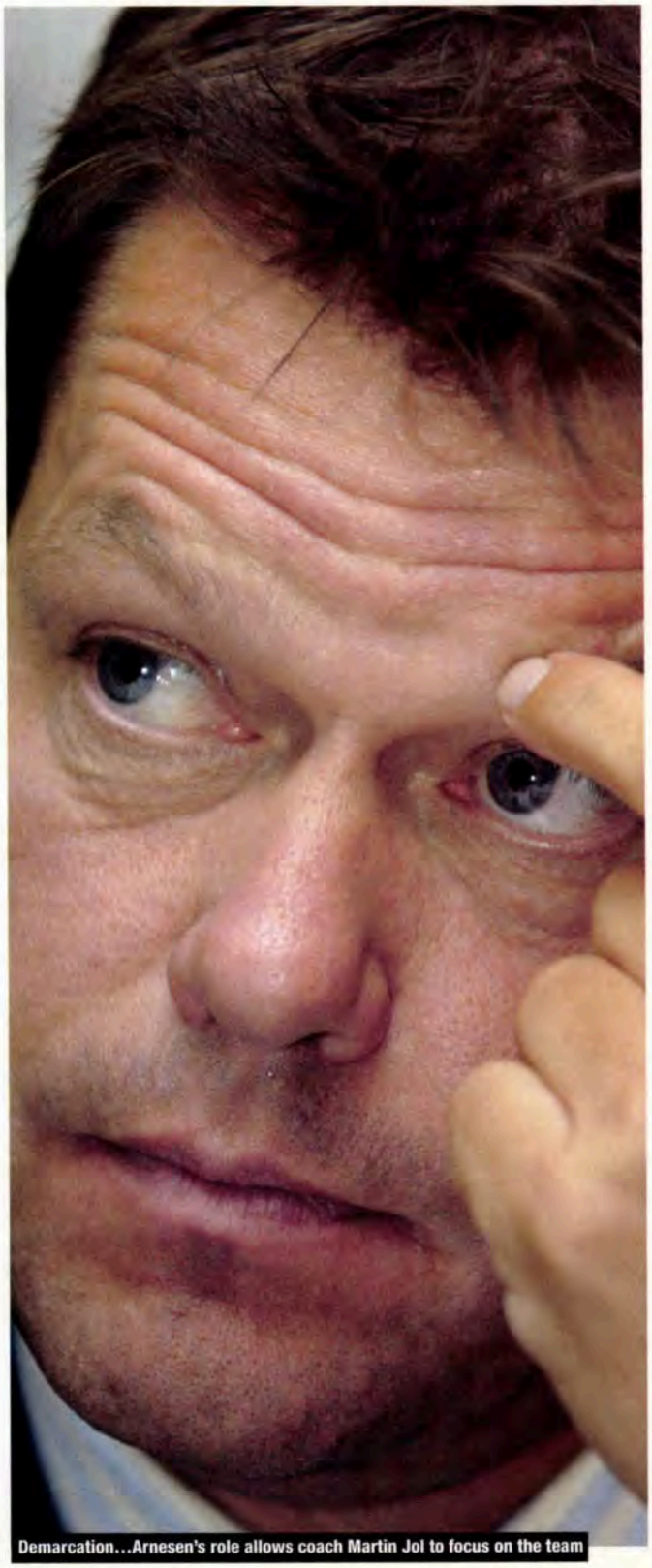
"We do have Defendi, a left-footed stopper. We took him on his 18th birthday from Cruzeiro because he has an Italian passport. His grandfather was Italian. I knew him from my PSV scouting, he was on my list.

"You do have to be careful with young footballers, however. Some are mature, some are not. I don't like to take players from other countries at a young age, like 13. But you never say never. People call it slavery, but that's wrong. For example, you have a family with only a mother and 10 children and the talented young footballer is the oldest. She wants him to leave so she doesn't have to feed him. What's right and wrong here? In our comfortable world we don't think about it like that."

Many critics believe the system of a technical director won't work in English football, where the manager has traditionally reigned supreme. Naturally, Arnesen disagrees. He has a close relationship with Dutch coach Martin Jol and says: "I run the business all around, to make sure Martin can work on the training ground every day. The coach only has to worry about the team. I am the highest man in the football side of the club.

"It's not better or worse than the English system. It's just that Spurs decided to go for this structure. In the English way the manager's priorities have to be split between training and transfer dealings. Our system gives everyone more time to do a specific job, and that makes the club stronger."

*Jim Holden*



Demarcation...Arnesen's role allows coach Martin Jol to focus on the team

Free rein...Allofs is trusted implicitly by the Werder board

Well-travelled...Comolli has also coached in Japan and scouted for Arsenal

## 2 Klaus Allofs

# Man of steel in control at Werder Bremen

**FORMER WEST GERMANY** striker Klaus Allofs must thank his lucky stars he works for Werder Bremen, where the board prefer to stay in the shadows and who believe that key employees should go about their affairs without interference.

Allofs, who played for Dusseldorf, Koln, Marseille, Bordeaux and Werder, is trusted implicitly, given free rein in the all-consuming business of buying players, negotiating contracts, co-ordinating the work of the coaching staff and looking after the needs of the first-team squad.

Many in the German press thought he was merely a stop-gap appointment when handed the *Sportdirektor* role in October 1999. How wrong they were. Allofs is an intelligent, meticulous operator with a touch of steel running through him, and his extensive knowledge of the game and eye for affordable talent have proved invaluable to the club. Certainly they would not have done the League and Cup double last season without two of his best signings, playmaker Johan Micoud and stopper Valerien Ismael, both Frenchmen.

Allofs also serves as the public face of Werder, always available to comment on all matters concerning the club. Indeed, it is fair to say that technical directors in the Bundesliga talk more frequently to the media than coaches.

*Nick Bidwell*

## 3 Damien Comolli

# Young former Wenger associate at Saint-Etienne

**DAMIEN COMOLLI** is the youngest director of sport in the French top flight at 33 and only in his first season at Saint-Etienne. Despite that, he is anything but an unknown in French footballing circles.

Before taking his current post, he was one of Arsene Wenger's closest collaborators, first as the coach of the Monaco Under-16s in the early 1990s, then in charge of the Grampus Eight youngsters in Japan and finally as an Arsenal scout for seven years, a role that took him all over the globe.

In theory, the brief of a French technical director begins and ends with the recruitment of players, whether established professionals or would-be apprentices. But usually their power to pick and choose is severely constrained by club presidents, who love nothing more than to identify transfer targets and strike a deal themselves.

That, however, is not the situation at Saint-Etienne, where owner Bernard Caiazzo allows Comolli much autonomy. Provided coach Elie Baup agrees and finance chief Vincent Tong-Cuong gives the green light, this *directeur sportif* is in business.

*Nick Bidwell*

# Technical directors

Uncompromising...Van Geel

## 4 Martin Van Geel

## AZ Alkmaar's brilliant bargain hunter

IF ANY PROGRESSIVE Premiership club are toying with the idea of following the Tottenham example and recruiting a Frank Arnesen-like technical director, they would do well to take a look at Martin Van Geel of AZ Alkmaar. His flair for scouting, buying and selling of players has formed the bedrock of the club's excellent results this season.

Van Geel, a former striker with Ajax and Feyenoord, is simply an outstanding squad builder. There is no one better at finding value in the Bosman bargain bin and he is totally uncompromising when trawling the transfer market. A would-be signing ticks all the boxes or he is not brought in. Persuasive and eloquent, Van Geel is, moreover, a master at selling his club to players he wants.

In common with the majority of Dutch technical directors, his job description also involves coaching appointments. When AZ boss Co Adriaanse announced in January he would be quitting at the end of this season, it was Van Geel who succeeded in persuading former Ajax and Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal to fill the breach.

With both Van Geel and Van Gaal renowned for their straight-talking ways, this should be one working relationship worth following.

*Nick Bidwell*

## 5 Pantaleo Corvino

## Unearther of international bright young things

PANTALEO CORVINO is the principal reason why Lecce have punched above their weight in Serie A over the past two seasons, making light of their limited financial resources. In his post since 1997, Corvino is the architect of the best youth development set-up in Italian football, and the fact that 50 per cent of the current Lecce squad is home-grown speaks volumes for his abilities as a talent scout, organiser and father figure.

His speciality is unearthing bright young things from abroad thanks to a worldwide network of contacts. The list of his discoveries is extensive, featuring Bulgarian striker Valeri Bojinov – whom he bought for £10,000 from Pieta Hotspur of Malta in 1999 and sold in January to Fiorentina for £9million – Uruguayan forward Javier Chevanton, now at Monaco, and Lecce's Serbian attacker Mirko Vucinic.

"For a little club like ours, the nurturing of our own players is a must," says Corvino, a former Italian Air Force officer. "There is no other way. You have to have a nose for good young players, a feel for where you might find them."

Sadly for Lecce, his time there will soon be up. He is due to become technical director of Fiorentina in July.

*Nick Bidwell*

Focus on youth...Corvino

Brazilian recruits...Monchi

## 6 Monchi

## Smart operator for Sevilla

SINCE RETURNING TO Spain's top division in 2001 Sevilla have made steady progress and this season they are on the verge of a historic Champions League place. Not bad for a side that sold their best player – Jose Antonio Reyes – last term. But then the club have Spain's most talented sporting director – impeccably presented ex-keeper Ramon Rodriguez Verdejo, or Monchi as he's better known.

Monchi took over in 2000 when Sevilla were relegated and, with faith in the youth team and a clinical eye in the transfer market, did most to turn the club round, working closely with coach Joaquin Caparros. He restructured the already fruitful youth team set-up, building a unit that involves psychologists, teachers and 12 full-time coaches.

The unit also, of course, involves cashing in on its produce: Reyes alone pulled in £10million, while the sales of Jose Mari, Carlitos, Salva, Juan Velasco, Carlos Marchena and Jesuli brought in a combined £33m.

But Sevilla have not splashed the cash. Indeed, it is when it comes to buying that Monchi has most impressed, especially his winkling out of previously little-known Brazilian players. When Julio Baptista turned up, no one had heard of him. But after scoring a hatful of goals, everyone wants him, with Barcelona leading the chase with a bid of around £15m. Not that Monchi got it 100 per cent right. When he signed Baptista he claimed he was the new Mauro Silva, Deportivo's veteran midfield general, and didn't mention anything about him being a marauding goalscorer.

*Sid Lowe*

Brian Glanville on the dazzling career of Alfredo Di Stefano

# Blond bombshell

King of Madrid...Alfredo Di Stefano

IF PELE IS generally accepted as the greatest footballer of all time, Alfredo Di Stefano runs him closer than anyone. The one respect in which Pele has the undoubted edge is in the World Cup. He won two of them with Brazil, excelling both in 1958 and 1970. Di Stefano never played in a World Cup finals, not for his native Argentina, which he left in 1953 after winning a mere seven caps, nor for his adopted country, Spain, in whose squad he figured for the 1962 World Cup in Chile. Spain's manager was his Argentinian compatriot Helenio Herrera, an equally great egotist.

Di Stefano had declared himself injured. Down at Vina del Mar, where the Spanish squad were based, his Capri-born father, once a professional footballer himself, brought with him a healing lotion. Try it, he told his son, it will cure you. But it is doubtful Di Stefano would ever have played in a side coached by Herrera.

Di Stefano attributed his astonishing stamina to running through the streets of Buenos Aires, his native city. He joined River Plate, became an international, but in 1949 followed his idol, famous forward Adolfo Pedernera, to Colombia, to play for Bogota club Millonarios. Colombia had, at that time, withdrawn from FIFA and for four highly profitable years, Di Stefano, the 'Blond Arrow', flourished in that footballing backwater. But in 1953, when Colombia rejoined FIFA, he headed for Spain.

Those bitter rivals Barcelona and Real Madrid both coveted him, both claimed that he had signed for them. In the event, FIFA had to intervene with what might be called a judgement of Solomon. Each club should have the services of Di Stefano for a season. It was a compromise never likely to work; nor did it. This was because he began with Real, and Barcelona, with a decision they must have regretted for years to come, stepped aside at the end of that first season, allowing Madrid to keep him permanently.

Under this dazzling aegis, Real were able to dominate the newly-instituted European Cup for five seasons. It is inconceivable that they could have done this without him. He scored no fewer than 49 goals in the competition, three of them in the game in which his club arguably reached their apogee: the Final against Eintracht Frankfurt at Hampden Park in May 1960, the last of Real's five consecutive triumphs. Real won 7-3 and Di Stefano was a miracle of ubiquitous energy, now clearing from beneath his own bar, now haring upfield to make a killer through-pass, and hitting that hat-trick.

The other four goals went to Ferenc Puskas, the Galloping Major, an overseas-born player who did play for Spain at the 1962 World Cup. Puskas, who had abandoned Hungary after the 1956 revolution, was shrewd enough to realise Di Stefano brooked no rivals on the podium. After the 1958 World Cup, he had seen off as great a star as Brazil playmaker Didi and young Sweden centre-forward Agne Simonsson. The story goes that at the end of Puskas' first season at Real, when the pair were neck and neck to become League top scorer, he tactfully passed to Di Stefano when he could easily have scored himself, enabling his team-mate to precede him.

**'Real could never have dominated the European Cup without him'**

But Di Stefano's glorious passing helped Puskas to a hat-trick against Benfica in the 1962 European Cup Final in Amsterdam, though Real lost 5-3.

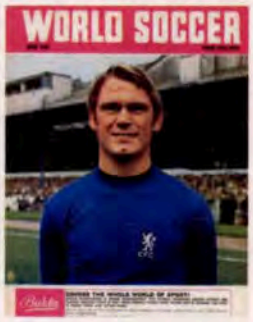
Before Puskas, Di Stefano's foil at inside-left was fellow Argentinian Hector Rial. And when Raymond Kopa, his dazzling opponent with Reims in the first European Cup Final, joined Real, he had to forego his deep-lying centre-forward role to play on the right.

After his retirement, Di Stefano managed Valencia, Boca Juniors and Real themselves, though never with quite the same resplendent success he enjoyed as a player.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

# JUNE 1969

**THIRTY-SIX YEARS AGO, EDITOR JACK ROLLIN EXPRESSED ALARM AT THE GROWING TREND TOWARDS DEFENSIVE FOOTBALL**




**"A YEAR from now the World Cup will be grabbing all the attention of those interested in the premier international competition for football teams.**

**"There will be no fears that Mexico, the host nation on this 1970 occasion, will fail to manage the gigantic organisation a tournament of this size brings with it. The Mexicans had excellent groundwork in the staging of the last Olympic Games and if there were any inadequacies the well-known school of experience has ironed them out.**

**"When the final 16 teams are known, there will be the usual speculation about the favourites. Will England retain their trophy? Can the Mexicans benefit from home advantage? Will it be Argentina's turn to shine?**

**"But while there are many questions affecting the participants, the method of play will be as closely watched as anything. The defensive trends which began to show themselves clearly in the 1962 tournament were accentuated to incredible proportions in 1966. Little that has happened since then has led us to believe that there will be a dramatic swing towards attacking football.**

**"It has been proved conclusively that defensive-minded teams are by far the most successful and will be until there is concrete evidence that attacking ideas can outsmart defensive strategy not only tactically but by their variety and pressed home far more frequently than at present.**

**"These are fine words in print. It is another matter entirely to achieve something positive in practice. But for the future of the game as a spectacle it is to be fervently hoped that a solution is found."**

Chopped down...Forest players commiserate with each other after defeat at QPR seals their fate

# Forest hit new low

## Clough's old side fall further than any ex-European champions

MARTIN O'NEILL, assisted by John Robertson, is doing a superb job at Celtic, while Stuart Pearce is looking every inch the man for Manchester City. Meanwhile, Nottingham Forest, where all three learned their trade under Brian Clough, have tumbled into what used to be the Third Division.

No former European Champions Cup winners have ever dropped so low. Manchester United once and Milan twice both had brief spells in their country's Second Divisions, and Reims – twice European Cup runners-up – have spent much of the past three decades sliding up and down the top three divisions in France (to say nothing of two bankruptcies).

But Forest's demise has been sudden. Two seasons ago, under Paul Hart, they were playing good football and eyeing a play-off place. Then the financial cupboard was bare and every player worth his salt was on his way – most recently Michael Dawson and Andy Reid to Tottenham.

Fans complained that Clough would not have let it happen, forgetting that Ole Big 'Ed, in his last season, could not prevent a talented squad sliding out of the top flight.

As Howard Wilkinson, formerly the manager along the road at Notts County, once remarked: "The Second Division is full of teams who were too good to go down."

I always had the fanciful notion that the beginning of the end for Clough's Forest was the law change banning back-passes. Clough liked his teams to play football, from No 1 to 11, and Forest moves began with the ball being rolled around patiently at the back – with the goalkeeper regularly involved – before gaps further upfield became apparent. Once the back-pass escape route had been shut down, Forest became vulnerable to pressing football and conceded the initiative.

One consolation for City Ground fans: Manchester United have still won the Champions Cup only the same number of times as Forest.

## Loyalty warning for United

**"Rio, Rio, sign the deal!" Ferdinand was advised by Manchester United fans with nothing better to do during the 4-0 stroll at Charlton. The issue was loyalty and the precedent is not encouraging.**

**United fans felt the club deserved better from the defender, whom they paid regally for doing nothing competitive during the eight months of his dope-test ban.**

**Whispers within the Premiership suggest that Jose Mourinho, whatever may have been said, would not turn down the chance of signing Ferdinand if agent Pini Zahavi advised his man that a better deal is around the corner (or down the M6).**

**But we've seen worse. Remember Ronaldo, forcing his way out of Internazionale in 2002 after the club had paid his wages and millions in medical bills for the best part of two years?**

**Loyalty is only as good as your last game.**

## Simutenkov case opens door wider

JUST AS UEFA was coming up with its clever little ruse to try to enforce a modicum of home-grown talent in every Champions League squad, so another horse was bolting out of the stable door.

Lawyers acting for Russian Igor Simutenkov, the former Tenerife centre-forward, obtained a judgement from the European Court which extends the Bosman provisions to Russian players.

In essence this means that players from all nations with trade treaty links into the European Union have free right of movement within the game.

This raises a question mark over UEFA's latest attempt to enforce the squad insertion of home-grown talent. 'Home' in EU terms is anywhere from Madeira to Moscow.

Among the goals...Balaban for Brugge

## The great Bosko Balaban mystery

WILL THE TRUTH ever be told about the strange passage through the Premiership of Bosko Balaban? The Croat striker scored his 11th goal of the season for Club Brugge in the 1-0 win over Excelsior Mouscron to edge them closer to the Belgian title and spark speculation of a summer move to Serie A. So why did he spend more than a year sidelined at Aston Villa?

# Italy still haunted by doping claims

**Eye of the storm…Cannavaro takes on Baros of Liverpool**

JUVENTUS FOUND AN easy scapegoat for the latest crisis assailing them: they blamed the media. Not, for once perhaps, without reason.

"We want to concentrate only on our football," said general manager Luciano Moggi, announcing a "media silence" as the latest doping storm raged around Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro.

Last November Juve club doctor Riccardo Agricola was handed a suspended jail term for player doping, the club were knocked out of the Champions League by Liverpool, then threatened with the collapse of their shirt sponsorship deal with the Libyans of Tamoil.

Relief on learning that the Court of Arbitration for Sport had decided they should not forfeit the trophies collected during the doping years of 1994 to 1998 was short-lived.

The TV programme from state broadcaster RAI (see Headliners, page 6) that showed Cannavaro receiving a vitamin injection before playing for Parma in the 1999 UEFA Cup Final revived all the stage whispers about the medicinal support available to other Parma stars of the time, including Hernan Crespo.

Use of the substance in question, Neoton, was confirmed by former team-mate Faustino Asprilla. "I used to take Neoton and I know it wasn't illegal," said Asprilla, who is now back in his native Colombia. "So what's the problem?"

# Kaiser in pole position

FRANZ BECKENBAUER, though yet to officially declare his intention to run, has taken a narrow but potentially decisive advantage over Michel Platini in the UEFA presidential crawl.

When Platini announced his ambition to run for president it was thought that Lennart Johansson would be stepping down on the expiry of his present four-year term in April next year. But then UEFA, following FIFA's lead, decided recently on a change.

Just as FIFA extended Sepp Blatter's current presidential term to 2007 in order that the preparations for the 2006 World Cup finals would not be disrupted by a high-profile election, so UEFA has done the same for Johansson.

Platini is now stuck out on a limb, having declared his candidacy too early and alerted potential rivals.

At one time Beckenbauer, 'Der Kaiser' in his playing days, had been considered a possibility to be the next FIFA president. That was when Blatter was still insisting that the world body's leader should – like the president of the United States – serve only two terms. But Blatter's 'ideal' was never written into the FIFA statutes. Now Blatter, like Brazilian Joao Havelange before him, is starting to murmur that he might, just might, be persuaded to stay on if enough federations want him to do so.

Thus the UEFA job is the only obvious position of power available in the near future. All Beckenbauer need do is wait for Johansson to confirm his retirement in 2007 – and ensure that the World Cup finals run smoothly in Germany.

As for Platini, he might like to run for the FIFA presidency in 2011…

**Waiting game…the potential UEFA presidential race between Platini and Beckenbauer has been delayed**

WS WORLD SOCCER GLOBAL VIEW Paul Gardner

# Celebrate the set-up

Goal assists and those who make them should be given more prominence

RONALDO, YOU WILL surely remember, was the top scorer at the 2002 World Cup with eight goals. An impressive total – you have to go back to 1970 for a better one, when Gerd Muller scored 10. But do you also recall that Ronaldo racked up 24 points, more than anyone else at the finals? Chances are high that you don't remember any such thing, and, furthermore, that you have no idea what I'm talking about.

Points? Well, the points table is a FIFA statistic, it's right there in the FIFA Technical Report, which allots three points for each goal scored, plus one point for each assist.

FIFA has been recording World Cup assists since 1986. The concept of the assist has yet to gain full acceptance in the soccer world. The Italians rather like it, and speak and write frequently of *un assist*, while the Spanish have no problem using their own word, *asistencia*. But to the English, the word itself seems suspect; they either shun it altogether or treat it as an oddity to be clothed in quotation marks: the "assist".

I once asked an English colleague why he never used it, and he answered thus: "Assist? Well, it's not a noun, is it?" A grammatical objection then, with probably a little anti-Americanism mixed in; the assist is an American ice-hockey concept.

But is it a useful one? As a writer I find it very useful, but I believe it has a wider value in that it does reveal something about a player's achievements. It also gives some recognition to the contributions of playmakers.

The biggest problem is deciding on a definition of an assist. Without clear-cut criteria, the process of allotting assists can be wildly abused.

Let's go back to that 1986 World Cup. It's June 22. We're in Mexico City's Azteca stadium. Argentina's Hector Enrique, 10 yards inside his own half, prods the ball forward, a simple five-yard pass to Diego Maradona. And away goes Maradona, corkscrewing his way through the English defence to score one of the greatest World Cup goals.

**'Without clear-cut criteria, the process of allotting assists can be wildly abused'**

Obviously to give an assist on such a goal would be farcical. But suppose Maradona had passed the ball at the last moment, giving a colleague an easy tap-in? Marking up an assist would at least give some credit to Maradona.

Somewhere between those extremes lie the vast majority of goals. Why not try to acknowledge that most of them involve contributions from more than one player? In 1990, FIFA laid out its criteria – from the obvious (assist to the player who passed to the scorer, plus maybe an additional assist to the player who made the pass before that; no assist on individual dribbling plays), to the not so obvious (on a penalty-kick, an assist to the player who was fouled – unless he takes the kick himself).

But however detailed the list, there will be problem areas. What about the player who steps over the ball and lets it run through to the scorer? Does he get an assist even though he didn't touch the ball?

The now defunct North American Soccer League had an award for its top assist provider. But it soon became clear that teams were giving out two or even three assists, warranted or not, on every goal, trying to push their own players for the award. Lacking the resources to check every goal, the NASL tried to level things out by ruling that all assisted goals must be given two assists and sometimes a third.

FIFA has no award for assists but has used them as a tie-breaker for scoring awards. In the 1999 World Youth Cup, Spain's Pablo and Mali's Mahamadou Dissa were joint top scorers on five goals. The Golden Shoe went to Pablo, who had two assists to Dissa's one.

Otherwise, FIFA's assist total remains a well-kept secret within the pages of the technical reports. If you care to look, you'll find that the USSR's Igor Belanov is the assist champion, with the six he recorded in 1986. In the 2002 tournament, you will see that Ronaldo's 24 points came from his eight goals. He had no assists – possibly indicating a more ruthlessly selfish Ronaldo than the one we saw in 1998, when he tallied four goals and three assists. Germany's Michael Ballack was the assist leader in 2002 with four; as he also scored three goals (for a total of 13 points) he could perhaps – statistically – lay claim to being the tournament's top all-rounder.

Possibly that is reading too much into these figures, but some of them do seem to tell us something about the player. In 1986, Gary Lineker's tournament-leading six goals and no assists sounds right. That same tournament was dominated by Maradona, who seemed to do everything for Argentina. His performance is surely reflected in his five-goal, five-assist, 20-point total – the best all-round performance among the five World Cups covered by FIFA's statistics.

No assists...Ronaldo scored all his FIFA points from goals in 2002

# Chelsea join the elite

Simon Banks on the biggest club sponsorship deals

THE NEWS THAT Chelsea have signed a five-year sponsorship deal with South Korean electronics manufacturer Samsung for £10m a year catapults the Premier League champions into the elite of the football sponsorship world.

Chelsea now have a deal worth slightly more than Real Madrid's with Siemens Mobile, while only Juventus and Bayern Munich have more lucrative contracts. Chelsea's deal is worth £1m per year more than Vodafone's sponsorship of Manchester United, which was recently extended by four years.

The attractions of Chelsea to Samsung are pretty obvious. The Premier League is shown in 180 countries to an audience of up to 600 million, and Roman Abramovich's investment should ensure that Chelsea will be challenging for the League title and other silverware, generating even more television coverage, for the foreseeable future.

The £10m per year from Samsung may not make a lot of difference to a club that reported an £83m loss last year, but it will ensure that the likes of Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba are featured in adverts for electrical goods around the world. This is congruent with the strategy of chief executive Peter Kenyon to make Chelsea a global brand and reach breakeven by 2010. In order to achieve those aims, the club need a winning team, and thanks to Abramovich's billions, they can afford to buy one.

The Chelsea-Samsung deal is indicative of a trend in football sponsorship: the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. Research by German sponsorship consultancy Sport+Markt has shown that the bottom five clubs in the Premier League have shirt deals worth, on average, a mere six per cent of those of the top five clubs. In 2000 the bottom clubs' deals were worth a quarter of those at the top.

Sealing the deal...Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon and Samsung Electronics Europe CEO In Soo-kim show off the new club shirt

The choice of Samsung by Chelsea is part of another trend: the decline of mobile phone sponsorship. Although Man United have stayed with Vodafone, Real Madrid's shirts will in future carry the word 'Siemens' but not 'Mobile' as the German conglomerate is trying to sell its loss-making mobile phone division.

Barcelona, meanwhile, look set to end the tradition of not besmirching their shirts with a corporate logo by signing a deal worth in excess of £10m a year with an as yet unnamed company. When sponsorship deals were only a small part of a club's income, Barcelona could afford to put aesthetic and sporting principles ahead of commercial gain. But in the days of multi-million pound sponsorship deals, not even Barcelona can afford such ideals.

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|---|---|---|
| Sky/Tamoil | Juventus | 12.75 |
| T-Com | Bayern Munich | 11.7 |
| Samsung | Chelsea | 10.0 |
| Siemens | Real Madrid | 9.5 |
| Vodafone | Manchester United | 9.0 |

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# Magath rules at last as Bayern take the crown

GERMANY

BAYERN MUNICH, due to move this summer to their sumptuous new Allianz-Arena home, ended a 33-year residency at the Olympiastadion as they began it in 1972 – in possession of the Bundesliga shield.

A 4-0 win at Kaiserslautern, with Dutch striker Roy Makaay hitting a hat-trick, guaranteed Bayern the title with three games to spare. Such was the euphoria that even teetotal boss Felix Magath exchanged his usual cup of peppermint tea for a foaming beer.

Magath could be excused for suspending his temperance. This was his first championship win as a coach and a perfect response to those who had predicted when he took the helm last summer that his hard-line methods would not sit well with the pampered millionaires of FC Hollywood. Magath, clear-headed throughout, delivered the improvements in fitness, discipline and entertaining football demanded by his new employers.

"It is a great relief and a great pleasure," said the former Hamburg, Nurnberg, Werder Bremen, Eintracht Frankfurt and Stuttgart boss. "Finally I've won something. The League championship means the most because for 10 months you have to work hard, day in and day out. It's nothing to do with luck."

As the Bayern players celebrated the club's 19th German title, Schalke were left only with regrets. Their 1-0 home win over Bayern in mid-March had given them the edge, both in the League and psychologically. But the Gelsenkirchen club's hopes withered on the vine. While Bayern recorded half-a-dozen straight wins, misfiring Schalke lost four out of six.

According to Bayern midfield star Michael Ballack, Schalke could not handle the pressure. However, what really undermined their challenge were injuries and suspensions at the wrong moment. Excellent young left-back Christian Pander damaged knee ligaments, Danish striker Ebbe Sand broke his nose, and central defenders Mladan Krstajic and Marcelo Bordon and playmaker Lincoln picked up bans.

"Up until the last part of the season we had a settled side," said Schalke general manager Rudi Assauer. "Then suddenly several key players were unavailable and we didn't have enough class on our bench."

Schalke can take some revenge by beating Bayern in the German Cup Final in Berlin on May 28. Keeper Frank Rost was the hero of Schalke's semi-final victory over Werder Bremen, last season's Double winners. Not only did Rost make several fine saves during the enthralling 2-2 draw but he also stopped three Werder penalties in the shoot-out and calmly converted the decisive kick himself.

Bayern reached the Final with a routine 2-0 win at Arminia Bielefeld, on goals from Ballack, an early header, and Makaay, a late penalty. Furious at the spot-kick award, Bielefeld's South African forward Delron Buckley, who is due to join Borussia Dortmund in July, barged into referee Markus Merk, was sent off for his trouble and later banned for six games.

Kaiserslautern's failure to finish higher than mid-table resulted in the sack for Austrian coach Kurt Jara, while Dutchman Dick Advocaat was fired by lowly Borussia Monchengladbach after taking only 18 points from 18 games since taking charge in November.

*Nick Bidwell*

**Smile, please...happy Bayern Munich celebrate after clinching the Bundesliga title at Kaiserslautern**

# Furore over Barthez ban

FRANCE

Good timing...the ban's April start meant Barthez faced missing only four League games and a friendly international

THE FEDERATION HAS succeeded in making a crisis out of a drama by giving a relatively light punishment to international keeper Fabien Barthez for spitting at referee Abdellah El Achiri during a friendly for his club Marseille in Morocco in February.

Barthez was suspended for three months, with another three months suspended, despite federation rules that such an offence should receive a minimum six-month ban.

Jean Mazzella, president of the federation's disciplinary commission, justified the decision by saying Barthez had spat on the referee's chest rather than in his face. But his explanation cut no ice with referee's union chief Bernard Saules. "What's the difference between a spit in the face, in the ear or on the chest?" he said. "How can we now give a non-League player a one-year ban for such an act if Barthez gets only three months?"

Some observers suggested a conspiracy, saying the federation went easy on the keeper so that he would be available to play for France in three autumn World Cup qualifiers – home to the Faroe Islands and away to the Republic of Ireland in September and in Switzerland the following month.

Whatever the truth, the period covered by the ban favours Barthez. Since it began in late April, he will miss just four League games and a friendly international against Hungary at the end of May.

Sports Minister Jean-Francois Lamour said he was surprised by the clemency of the disciplinary commission and put new federation chairman Jean-Pierre Escalettes under pressure by asking him how he was going to react to the situation. A few hours later Escalettes, remarkably, announced the launch of an appeal against his own body's decision.

The spitting incident occurred towards the end of a game at Wydad Casablanca following a mass brawl. As El Achiri tried to restore order, Barthez, who had been substituted in the first half, remonstrated with him over his poor handling of the game. As matters escalated, he spat at the referee.

There may be further legal repercussions. Ultimately, Barthez could go to the French Olympic Committee, which has the power to overrule a football federation decision. With the prospect of the case going from one court to another, it could prove to be a very long summer.

*Erik Bielderman*

# PSV canter home

Champions...PSV skipper Mark Van Bommel hoists the Dutch League shield as his side celebrate being kings of Holland for the 18th time

## HOLLAND

AT THE START of the season, few people gave PSV Eindhoven much hope of success. Eight months later they were League champions for the 18th time with four games to spare, into the Dutch Cup Final and still in the hunt for the Champions League.

Much of the credit must go to coach Guus Hiddink, who overcame the departure of Arjen Robben, Mateja Kezman and Dennis Rommedahl last summer by building a new, hard-to-beat unit. New arrivals such as defender Alex, keeper Gomes and striker Jefferson Farfan were unknown quantities but astute signings, well capable of fitting Hiddink's plans. He also managed to get the best out of forwards Park Ji-sung and Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink.

However, PSV's best signing was veteran Philip Cocu, brought back from Barcelona. He, together with Johann Vogel, controlled the midfield, allowing skipper Mark Van Bommel to concentrate on his attacking game.

PSV, who topped the League all season, clinched the title in front of their home fans with a 3-0 win over Vitesse Arnhem after closest challengers AZ took only one point from five games in April.

The Alkmaar club appeared to pay the price for inexperience and fixture congestion, since they have been involved in the latter stages of the UEFA Cup. They also lost key players Martijn Meerdink, Joris Mathijsen and Jan Kromkamp to long-term injuries.

Ajax, one of the clubs to defeat AZ during April, leapfrogged them in the race for the other Champions League spot. The Amsterdammers followed up their 4-2 win over AZ by coming from behind to beat arch-rivals Feyenoord 3-2 in Rotterdam. The game was overshadowed by hooliganism, with Ajax fans wrecking railway carriages then fighting with home supporters and police at the stadium.

Relegation-threatened RBC Roosendaal replaced Jan Van Dijk with former Sparta coach Dolf Roks.

Ajax have signed teenage Armenian forward Edgar Manucharyan. The 17-year-old had an impressive trial in Amsterdam during the winter break but then broke a leg playing for Pyunik Yerevan in a friendly against Barcelona.

Feyenoord signed RKC defender and former Ajax youth team player Serginho Greene and sold Polish midfielder Ebi Smolarek to Borussia Dortmund, where he was already on loan.

*Klaas-Jan Droppert*

## PORTUGAL

### Challengers cry foul

Title challengers Sporting Lisbon and FC Porto have accused the federation of showing favouritism to Benfica by allowing the leaders' match away to neighbours Estoril to be played down south at the larger Algarve stadium.

The switch was in both Benfica and Estoril's interests. Relegation-threatened Estoril could take the receipts from a 35,000-capacity crowd rather than from their own 18,000-capacity ground, while Benfica, the country's most popular club, could rely on a much bigger support. In the event, the Eagles' massed ranks of fans roared their side on to a 2-1 win – but only after Estoril had two men sent off.

Tensions are running particularly high among Portugal's top three clubs because the title race is so close this season. Although Benfica are favourites to capture their first championship in 11 years, Sporting were only three points behind them with three games to play, with FC Porto another point back.

Liedson has continued to fire on all cylinders for Sporting, who have also been boosted by the recent good form of Chilean Mauricio Pinilla. He hit a hat-trick in a 3-0 win at Braga, lying just outside the top three.

By contrast, Porto, who have signed Argentinians Lucho Gonzalez and Lisandro Lopez for next season's campaign, have been unsettled during the run-in by rumours that coach Jose Couceiro will be replaced by AZ Alkmaar's Co Adriaanse at the end of this term.

*Pedro Pinto*

England, here I come...Grazer AK's Rene Aufhauser is eyeing a move to the Premiership

# Four-way split

## AUSTRIA

FOUR TEAMS ARE still in contention for the title, separated by just three points with a handful of games to play. Rapid Wien showed their mettle by beating leaders Pasching 2-1, which ironically allowed arch-rivals Austria Wien to go top on goal difference. The fourth contenders, defending champions Grazer AK, have rallied well after a disappointing autumn.

Pasching, a tiny club based just outside Linz, are the surprise package. But they have several experienced players, including a number who won the championship three seasons running with now-defunct FC Tirol between 2000 and 2002. Austria Wien are fully focused on the League after exiting the UEFA Cup quarter-finals to Parma on away goals.

Whether GAK retain the title, they seem set to lose defensive midfielder Rene Aufhauser in the summer. The international interests Everton, Fulham and Manchester City after impressive displays in the UEFA Cup clash with Middlesbrough in February.

"I have won it all in Austria, so I am ready to go abroad," said Aufhauser. "England and the Premier League would be amazing. It's every footballer's dream to play over there at some time. It's simply the best league in the world."

*Harry Miltner*

## SWITZERLAND

### Gross rant gets result

A half-time rant from Basle coach Christian Gross did the trick as the League leaders came back from 2-0 down at home against Aarau to win 4-2. "I had to harangue them and they responded," said Gross, who is feeling the pressure after second-placed Thun kept up their challenge.

Basle, the defending champions, repeated the trick three weeks later by coming from 2-0 down at half-time to beat Zurich 3-2.

Despite those two victories, outsiders Thun were within six points of Basle and with two games in hand after a run of convincing wins. They thrashed Aarau 7-1 away and then 5-0 at home eight days later before polishing off Schaffhausen 4-0.

Aarau followed up by losing 5-0 at home to Basle, meaning keeper Oliver Stockli had conceded 17 goals in three games, a Swiss top-flight record. During that run Aarau's misery was deepened when losing 2-1 to Second Division Lucerne in the Cup semi-finals. Lucerne's Final opponents are Zurich, who beat Young Boys 3-1.

St Gallen's Austrian coach Heinz Peischl quit in a fury after his team's 5-4 home League defeat by Zurich. Frenchman Rene Lobelo also stood aside, at Neuchatel Xamax, claiming he no longer had the support of the team, who had taken only two points from their previous eight games.

*Ivar von Rulach*

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

### Galway bank on Leeson

Nick Leeson, the man who broke Barings Bank, has been appointed commercial manager of First Division Galway United. The former rogue trader has been living in the area with his family for the past few years.

"I am a very keen football fan and am looking forward to working with Galway United," said Leeson, 38. "It's inevitable I will always be associated with Barings Bank, but I have moved on and I hope other people have as well." Leeson served four years in jail after running up trading losses of £860million while at Barings in Singapore. His dealings led to the collapse of the bank.

Shamrock Rovers have revealed they are £1.6million in debt and struggling to pay player wages and the rent on their temporary home, Bohemians' Dalymount Park.

*Sean Creedon*

## LIECHTENSTEIN

### Santos keeps Vaduz top

Brazilian forward Eduardo dos Santos kept leaders Vaduz on course for promotion to the Swiss top division by scoring in three consecutive games. Santos' good form came at just the right time, with top scorer Benni Fischer a long-term injury absentee. Patrik Hefti has succeeded Horst Erne as FC Triesen coach.

*Graeme Crawford*

# Kompany profits

## BELGIUM

VINCENT KOMPANY, Anderlecht's 19-year-old central defender, has become the second youngest recipient of the Player of the Year award, after Paul Van Himst. The teenager celebrated by hitting a rare goal for his club in a thrilling 3-2 win over Standard Liege.

The victory, which ended Standard's 15-game unbeaten run, ensured Anderlecht of at least second place and entry to the Champions League qualifying rounds. The defending champions trailed leaders Club Brugge by six points with four games to play.

Norwegian forward Rune Lange made the biggest contribution to keeping Brugge ahead, hitting two goals in the 3-1 win at Westerlo and opening the scoring in the 6-0 home rout of Germinal Beerschot. The goals moved Lange to the top of the League scoring chart on 15.

Mons beat Westerlo 3-2 to move out of the relegation places but it was not enough to keep coach Jos Daerden in his job. Assistant Michel Wintacq has taken the helm – the third man in charge this season.

SV Zulte-Waregem were promoted to the top flight for the first time, with Verbroedering Geel and Roeselare certain to feature in the play-offs.

*Nicholas Harling*

Belgium's finest...Kompany

# Celtic close in

Priceless...Bellamy celebrates Celtic's victory over Rangers that put them a big step closer to retaining the title

## SCOTLAND

THE CHAMPIONSHIP looks destined for Celtic Park once again after Martin O'Neill's men beat Rangers 2-1 at Ibrox in the last Old Firm meeting of the season. The win, through goals by Stilian Petrov and Craig Bellamy, put Celtic five points clear of their rivals with four games remaining.

Bellamy's strike has increased the pressure on the board from the fans to make his on-loan signing from Newcastle permanent. The Wales striker, who would probably command a fee of around £6million, has scored a number of other important goals, including a hat-trick against Dundee United, since joining Celtic in January.

Falkirk, who won the First Division championship in style, will finally play in the Premier League next season after being denied the right in previous years because their Brockville Park ground did not meet the required standard. Falkirk put the finishing touches to a new stadium, on the outskirts of town, in the same week they clinched top spot.

*Alan Fairley*

## NORWAY

### Lyn look to Berg

Henning Berg, one of the most prominent national team players during the 1990s, has been appointed head coach of Oslo side Lyn. The former Blackburn, Manchester United and Rangers defender took over from Hans Knutsen, who stepped aside after the team made an indifferent start to the season. Knutsen has agreed to stay on as assistant to Berg, who had been away from football since retiring as a player a year ago.

Egil Olsen, Berg's former national team boss, enjoyed a great start as coach of Fredrikstad, beating champions Rosenborg 1-0 away in the third game after a 2-1 home win over Viking to go joint top. Fredrikstad were outplayed by Rosenborg, but stayed in the game thanks to a heroic display by keeper Steinar Sorlie before snatching the win from a penalty.

Promoted Start were Fredrikstad's co-leaders after three rounds, producing two very positive displays in wins over Lillestrom and Molde.

Forward Frode Johnsen has failed to shine yet for Rosenborg, but was on the scoresheet as Norway beat Estonia 2-1 away in their April friendly. Club-mate Daniel Braaten scored the visitors' other goal.

*Sigurd Odegaard*

## DENMARK

### Brondby up for Cup as League lead slips

Brondby had mixed fortunes in three momentous derby clashes with FC Copenhagen in 14 days, beating them over two legs in the Danish Cup semi-finals but then losing 3-0 in the League to allow their rivals to come within four points of them at the top.

The Cup progress has been little consolation to Michael Laudrup's side, who have veered towards crisis ever since the spring Superliga campaign got under way. Brondby were 16 points clear of FC Copenhagen at the break, seemingly certain to win their first title for three seasons. But the collapse in form and morale has been profound – and provided a huge test for Laudrup.

By contrast, FC Copenhagen, under Hans Backe, won six League matches in succession.

Brondby, who beat Copenhagen 1-0 in the first leg of the Cup semi-final and drew 2-2 in the return, will face FC Midtjylland in the Final. The latter eased past First Division leaders Horsens 5-0 on aggregate in the other semi.

*Jim Holden*

## SWEDEN

### Goals rain in for Graulund

Helsingborgs forward Peter Graulund made a bright start to the new season with three goals in the opening two games. The Dane scored a brace on the opening day in the 2-0 defeat of Halmstads and then the winner in the 2-1 victory at Gefle as his side went top of the table.

Helsingborgs took advantage of champions Malmo's opening-day slip, when they lost 2-1 at home to title pretenders IFK Gothenburg.

Gothenburg, who have been Sweden's standard bearers in Scandinavia's Royal League tournament, were brought down to earth the following week, losing 3-0 at home to promoted Assyriska.

Elfsborg landed a coup when persuading Sweden midfielder Anders Svensson to return to the club after a three-and-a-half-year spell with Southampton. Elfsborg are angling to sign another Southampton player, Norwegian striker Jo Tessem.

*Pentti Hietanen*

## ICELAND

### FH take back Cup

Champions FH ensured the Atlantic Cup returned to Iceland following a convincing 4-1 win over their Faroese counterparts, HB, in Reykjavik. HB had won the one-off challenge match last year, beating KR 3-1.

Coaches Noi Bjornsson (of Third Division Leiftur/Dalvik) and Jon Steinar Gudmundsson (Fourth Division Bolungarvik) have been given two-month bans for fielding unregistered players in League Cup matches. The punishment, among the toughest of their kind laid down by the FA, means they will miss the early part of the new League season.

IA, who finished third in last year's championship, will meet Finland's Inter Turku in the first round of the InterToto Cup in June.

*Rab Christie*

## ESTONIA

### TVMK march on

Tallinna VMK continued their storming start to the season, extending their unbeaten run to eight games and with a remarkable goals record of 35 for, five against.

Record champions Flora Tallinn rallied after a bad start, going second after beating defending champions Levadia Tallinn 2-0 away.

Trans Narva's 17-year-old forward Aleksandr Kulatchenko scored seven goals in the first six games to win the player of the month award.

*Andres Must*

## LATVIA

### Skonto's points restored

Champions Skonto Riga are now favourites to retain the title after having a six-point deduction revoked and winning their first four games of the season. FIFA imposed the punishment when Skonto failed to pay £180,000 of the transfer fee they received from South Korea's Anyang Cheetahs for Eriks Pelcis to his former club, Ofriss Riga. The world body has now reversed the decision, though the Pelcis case is still under scrutiny and the points may be docked later.

Metalurgs Liepaja also won their first four games to stay joint top.

*Andres Must*

## WALES

### Marc brings Total joy

Total Network Solutions clinched the League title with three games to spare, finishing four points ahead of last season's champions Rhyl.

TNS's second title win owed much to the goal power of Marc Lloyd-Williams, who scored 34.

Although Rhyl took the UEFA Cup spot they may not be allowed to participate in the competition having failed to obtain a UEFA licence because their infrastructure, youth set-up and financial situation did not reach required standards. Their appeal is due to be heard at the end of May.

No such problems for Carmarthen Town, who were guaranteed a UEFA Cup place after reaching the Welsh Cup Final against TNS.

Afan Lido finished bottom of the League but may escape relegation if they can overturn the League's decision to dock them three points for fielding an ineligible player during a game in March.

The relegation issue is further complicated by the fact that there are only two second level clubs whose grounds meet Premier League criteria, and neither is certain to finish in a promotion position.

*Mel Thomas*

Going home...Anders Svensson

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Glens see off Linfield

Glentoran dethroned arch-rivals Linfield as champions after beating Crusaders 2-0 on the final day of the season to finish two points clear.

Glens had all but clinched the title by beating Linfield, their closest challengers, 3-2 at home the previous weekend. The game was marred by hooliganism as several Linfield supporters ran on to the pitch at the end and threw missiles at Glens fans, who responded by also invading the pitch. The mayhem ended with the arrival of baton-wielding riot police. New FA chief executive Howard Wells called for an immediate investigation.

*Roy Kitson*

# Hyypia hints the end is in sight

Painful...Hyypia took Finland's defeat by the Czechs badly

## FINLAND

SAMI HYYPIA raised speculation that he was about to quit the international scene after giving an anguished interview following Finland's dramatic 4-3 World Cup qualifying defeat in the Czech Republic in March. "It cannot be right to feel this bad after matches," said the long-serving Liverpool defender. "It's not even good for your health."

But national coach Antti Muurinen was quick to quash media rumours, saying: "Sami's comments were given in the heat of the moment. He'll come round and will be playing several years yet for Finland."

Hyypia's career with Liverpool also seems to be at a crossroads after signs that he may no longer be an automatic first-team choice. His name was recently linked with Roma, who were no doubt impressed by his faultless performance during Liverpool's Champions League draw away to Juventus that sealed their semi-final place.

Under-21 stars Njazi Kuqi and Toni Koskela have been given six-month international bans for breaking a curfew during Finland's trip to the Czech Republic.

Alliansi beat FC Lahti 3-1 in the League Cup Final having won their semi-final by default. They were due to meet Tampere United, who opted not to show up because the date of the tie clashed with a training camp in Cyprus. Alliansi agreed to postpone the match, but the League refused to countenance a delay, awarding Alliansi a 3-0 win and handing Tampere a heavy fine.

*Pentti Hietanen*

# Pancu a hit at No 1

Local hero...Pancu's display as an emergency keeper helped Besiktas to victory over leaders Fenerbahce

## TURKEY

ROMANIAN MIDFIELDER Daniel Pancu gave an unexpected boost to Besiktas' merchandising sales after performing heroics as an emergency goalkeeper during a dramatic 4-3 League win away to arch-rivals and leaders Fenerbahce. A special No 1 shirt, emblazoned with "Pancu the Kadikoy Panther", sold out on the first day of its appearance, indeed almost as soon as the Besiktas club shop opened. Fener's stadium is in the Kadikoy district of Istanbul.

Pancu was called into action in goal eight minutes from time after the sending-off of regular keeper Oscar Cordoba. The Colombian received a second yellow card for time-wasting as he was about to face a Fenerbahce penalty with his side 3-2 ahead. Pancu got the nod because Besiktas had used all three substitutes, leaving reserve keeper Murat Sahin stranded on the bench.

Although Pancu could not save the spot-kick, from Alex, he did stop another attempt on goal from the Brazilian shortly afterwards and kept his side on level terms with a save from Selcuk Sahin in the final minute. Besiktas's Koray Avci then performed the coup de grace, hitting the winner with just seconds to go to inflict Fener's first home defeat of the season.

There was predictable jubilation in the Besiktas camp, especially since the victory came at the end of a desperate season in which they came nowhere near winning any silverware and controversially sacked former Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque mid-term. Even with the victory, Besiktas still trailed Fener by 13 points with six games to play.

"Every second was beautiful," said an excited Riza Calimbay, the former Besiktas player who succeeded Del Bosque. "Winning such a game in such circumstances makes it all the more special."

Even the nonplussed Fenerbahce fans found it in themselves to applaud Pancu and his team's feat. Given the clubs' traditional hatred, that made it a very special game indeed.

*Suna Erdem*

## CROATIA

### Home truths for Sliskovic

League leaders Hajduk Split took the shock decision to sack coach Blaz Sliskovic after the team failed to win either of their first two games, both at home, in the championship play-offs. Hajduk kicked off with a 1-0 defeat by Zagreb, and then could only draw 1-1 with closest challengers Rijeka.

Although Hajduk still led the table, the results raised doubts about their ability to retain the title. Concerns had already been expressed about Sliskovic's other role, as national coach of Bosnia-Herzegovina, becoming an unwelcome distraction.

His replacement is former international defender Igor Stimac, who has been one of the main investors in the club in recent months but has little coaching experience. He and his partners were behind the signings of top players Niko Kranjcar, Ivan Leko and Bosnian Bulend Biscevic, but despite the presence of such 'galacticos' the team have failed to spark. "The problem is more a psychological one," Stimac said on his appointment. "Our players are the best, but they have lost their self-confidence somehow. I will get them to the title."

The federation has decided to stage Croatia's crucial October World Cup qualifier with Sweden in Split after Kranjcar and his father, national coach Zlatko, were roundly abused during two recent World Cup games in Zagreb. Many in the crowd were Dinamo fans, unable to forgive Kranjcar junior for joining arch-rivals Hajduk during the winter. The insults rained down despite two comfortable victories – 4-0 against Iceland and 3-0 against Malta.

*Zdravko Reic*

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

### Fans protest over Cup 'deal'

Supporters of League leaders Zrinjski have boycotted home matches in protest against alleged collusion between their club and neighbours Siroki Brijeg over the outcome of

their Cup semi-final. The fans claim that Zrinjski purposely let Siroki Brijeg beat them in return for their opponents taking it easy in a League clash to come.

Siroki Brijeg have little prospect of winning the League, trailing Zrinjski by nine points with seven games remaining, so, the fans claim, had no problem with sacrificing the League game.

*Zdravko Reic*

**SLOVENIA**

### Gorica hit back

HIT Gorica had the League title virtually sewn up with six games to play, having taken a 14-point lead over closest challengers Publikum. It is a remarkable turnaround for the club, who stood on the brink of bankruptcy just three years ago.

The man behind the resurgence is coach Pavel Pinni, who has created an outstanding young side on a tiny budget. Pinni even overcame the loss of two key players during the winter – captain Miran Srebrenic, sidelined by long-term injury, and top scorer Aleksandar Rodic, sold to Portsmouth. Rodic's replacement, Sasa Ranic, has proved an inspired choice, the youngster having rattled in eight goals in five games.

Publikum lost two of their first four play-off games, virtually ruling out any hope of the title and leading to the replacement of coach Ivica Matkovic by Marko Pocrnjic.

*Zdravko Reic*

**MACEDONIA**

### Kids can't help Kitanovski

Blagoja Kitanovski quit as coach of former champions Sloga Jugomagnat with the club on the brink of relegation. Sloga, title winners three years running (1999-2001), were 16 points from safety with just six games left following an exodus of players because of the club's financial difficulties.

Kitanovski was forced to use young, inexperienced players to fill the void, and, not surprisingly, results did not improve. Napredok were definitely down after taking just six points from 27 games.

Rabotnicki Kometal remained on course for their first championship title by beating Sloga 1-0 at home. This kept them 11 points clear of second-placed Vardar.

*Michel Stojmanovski*

**MALTA**

### Sliema's title hat-trick

Sliema Wanderers won their third straight League championship with a game to spare after holding second-placed Valletta to a 0-0 draw at home.

Valletta's challenge had suffered a major blow two weeks earlier after they crashed to a 2-0 defeat at home to Hibernians.

Lija Athletic and St Patrick are both relegated.

*Domenico Aquilina*

Nowhere to hide...police restrain a fan during clashes at the Red Star-Partizan derby

# Partizan happiest with an ugly derby

**SERBIA & MONTENEGRO**

PARTIZAN EDGED CLOSER to regaining the League title from Red Star after holding them to a 1-1 draw away in the 124th Belgrade derby. The point kept Partizan five clear of their city rivals with six rounds to go.

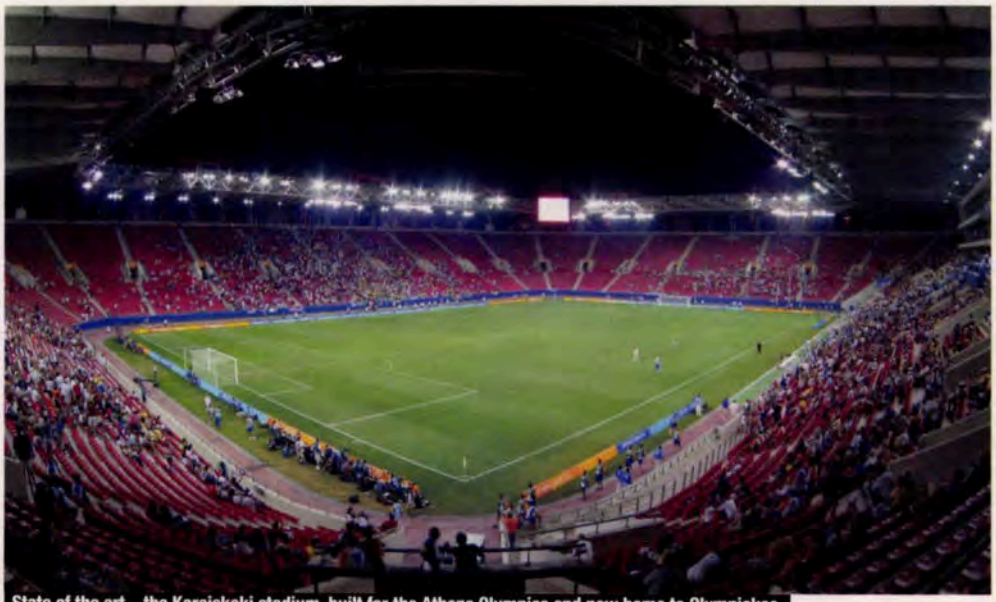
The game was poor, as the sides' autumn 0-0 draw had been, confirming the mediocre level of the League. Red Star, who needed a win, decided to bypass midfield altogether, sending countless high balls to giant target-man Nikola Zigic. Partizan, meanwhile, appeared happy with a point and as a result there were only two scoring chances in the whole game, and only one corner.

The derby was further marred by a bad injury to Red Star right-back Dusan Basta – he fractured his left arm after a collision with Partizan midfielder Albert Nadj – and clashes between the fans. Police made 80 arrests.

Zemun players called off a strike over unpaid wages after two days having been promised payment would be made in full by the end of the season.

*Vladimir Novak*

# New homes for big three



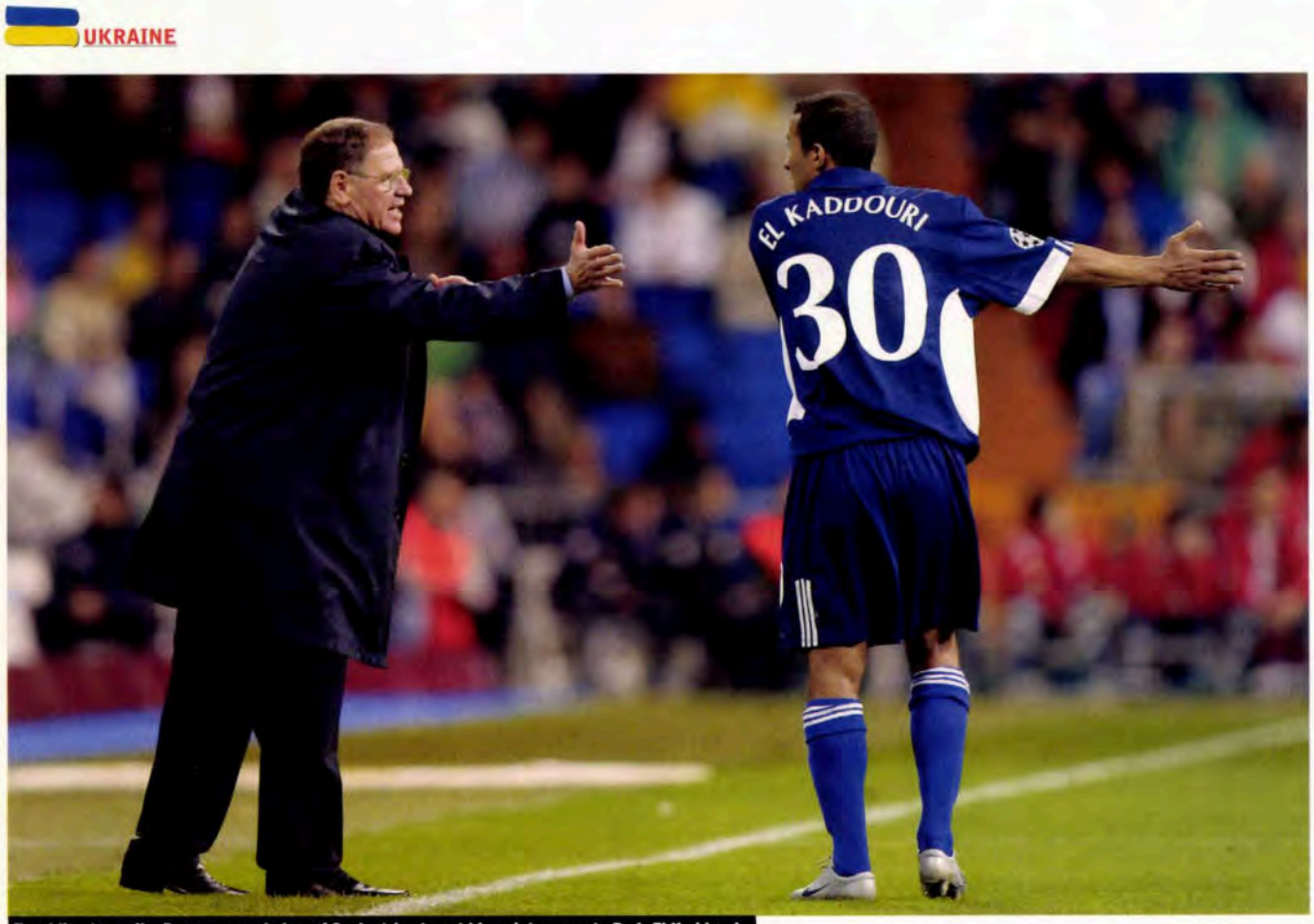
State of the art...the Karaiskaki stadium, built for the Athens Olympics and now home to Olympiakos

**GREECE**

PANATHINAIKOS and AEK Athens are set to follow Olympiakos and be playing in new stadiums within a few years. With Olympiakos already settling in to their permanent home at the recently-built Karaiskaki stadium, the other two of Greece's big three clubs also appear on the verge of getting their own arenas. Panathinaikos, who are expected to self-finance the construction work, look almost certain to choose a site in the Votanikos area of Athens. AEK are hoping to stay close to the suburb of Nea Philadelphia, where they currently play at the vast, high-rent Olympic stadium. They are putting out to tender the financing, construction and operation of their new arena.

*Lou Economopoulos*

# Dynamo in crisis




UKRAINE

Touchline turmoil...Dynamo coach Joszef Szabo tries to get his point across to Badr El Kaddouri

KYIV DYNAMO, the country's biggest club, are in the midst of one of their most serious crises after a number of setbacks on and off the pitch.

The presidency of Ihor Surkis is in jeopardy after a court froze the club's shares following the launch of legal action by the Pacific International Sport Clubs company. PISC, which owns 0.1 per cent of Dynamo shares, claims it was denied the chance to buy more during a new share issue. Surkis is the club's majority shareholder.

Dynamo fans have split into hostile camps over the issue, some backing Surkis's presidency, others wanting him to step down.

The off-field wrangles appeared to affect the team as they failed to win in three successive League games, equalling their worst run. Head coach Joszef Szabo then earned himself a three-match ban after running on to the pitch and remonstrating with the referee during a 0-0 draw away to modest Borysfen, the third game of the winless run.

"It looks like everything is against us," said Szabo. "Our players are facing terrible pressure both on and off the field. They are totally destroyed from a psychological point of view."

But Szabo's troubled relationship with many of the players can hardly have helped matters. He recently fell out with Latvian striker Maris Verpakovskis, while earlier in the season there were spats with Andrii Husin, Croat Jerko Leko and Serb Goran Gavrancic.

Astonishingly, Szabo has conceded the League title to rivals Shakhtar Donetsk, even though the gap was only five points with eight rounds to play.

"Unfortunately our title race is over," said the coach. "We are unable to compete with Shakhtar. They are in excellent form and are definitely the best club in the League."

Amid all the turmoil, Dynamo introduced former Ukraine boss Leonid Buriak as their new sports director and signed 18-year-old Bulgarian forward Atanas Chipilov from Academic Sofia.

Shakhtar are the clear championship favourites but will be without top striker Julius Aghahowa because of injury for the rest of the campaign.

*Oleg Zadernovsky*

CZECH REPUBLIC

## President on hold

New FA presidential elections have been called for June after a vote in April failed to produce a clear winner to succeed the outgoing Jan Obst. Former international Ivan Hasek was eliminated in the first ballot, but the remaining candidates – former Sparta Prague president Vlastimil Kostal and FA deputy chairman Pavel Mokry – were deadlocked in the run-off.

The Synot match-fixing scandal finally reached court but was then postponed after the lawyer of one of the accused referees questioned the legality of secretly-taped phone conversations being used as evidence.

Sparta Prague all but wrapped up the League title after a 2-1 win over reigning champions Banik Ostrava kept them 15 points ahead of second-placed Teplice with six games to go. Slavia Prague sacked coach Josef Csaplar as their push for a Champions League place faltered. Replacement Karel Jarolim's first game in charge was the Slavia-Sparta derby, a 1-1 draw.

*Sam Beckwith*

## ROMANIA

### Derby violence leads to stadium bans

League leaders Steaua Bucharest and city rivals Rapid were both ordered to play one home game behind closed doors after their fans clashed with riot police during the derby played at Steaua's ground.

Steaua were also fined a record £750 after their fans shouted what were deemed to be discriminatory insults at rival supporters. The stadium announcer received a £375 fine for making derogatory comments about Rapid supporters over the PA.

The game itself finished goalless, allowing Steaua to stay six points clear of closest challengers Rapid.

*Radu Timofte*

## BULGARIA

### Advantage CSKA

CSKA Sofia took what may well be a decisive step towards regaining the title when beating city rivals Levski, their nearest challengers, 1-0 away. The result, which extended CSKA's unbeaten run to 24 games since the start of the season, put them four points ahead of Levski with six matches remaining.

Velislav Vutsov quit as coach of Marek Dupnitza with the club just two points off the relegation zone. Vutsov, who took over from Roumen Stoyanov two games into the season, paid the price for a terrible run of League form and a Cup defeat by Second Division Pirin.

*Michael Bowesfield*

## HUNGARY

### Debrecen look good

Provincial club Debrecen look set to clinch their first championship after impressively beating Vasas 5-2 away the night before title challengers and reigning champions Ferencvaros collapsed 3-0 at mid-table Matav Sopron. The results put Debrecen, inspired by midfielder Tamas Sandor, seven points clear at the top with seven rounds to go.

Ferencvaros appear to be cracking under the pressure. Coach Csaba Laszlo wept in front of supporters after a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Kaposvar, international keeper Lajos Szucs committed a dreadful error against Matav Sopron, scoring an own goal to make it 2-0, and much-vaunted midfielder Szabolcs Huszti is a shadow of the player he was last season. On top of all that, the club are rumoured to be beset by financial troubles.

*Peterjon Cresswell*

## SLOVAKIA

### Artmedia aim for Double

Artmedia Petrzalka stayed on course for the Double after taking a four-point lead over champions MSK Zilina in the League and reaching the Cup Final with a 2-1 win over Licartovce.

Zilina's inability to match Artmedia in the League led to the dismissal of Ladislav Jurkemik, the former national coach. His replacement is Karol Pecze, one of Slovakia's most experienced managers. However, Pecze suffered an early blow as Zilina went out of the Cup after a 2-1 defeat by Banska Bystrica in the other semi-final.

Ruzomberok, the only team other than Zilina who appear to have the strength in depth to mount a title challenge, are also struggling on and off the pitch. A patchy run in March and April led to coach Ivan Hacko being sacked, while president Lubomir Moravcik has indicated he is likely to quit at the end of the season.

*Pavol Stracansky*

## AZERBAIJAN

### Daggers out for Carlos Alberto

Carlos Alberto Torres is looking an increasingly isolated figure as national coach. The Brazilian's relations with the Azeri federation were already strained following the 8-0 World Cup qualifying defeat in Poland in March. He then came under a blistering attack from Azerbaijan's most respected club coach, Aslan Mirdjabadov of Neftchi Baku.

"The national team should feature the country's strongest players. For the matches against Poland and England [a 2-0 defeat] the best players were left in Baku," said Mirdjabadov. "Torres' selection policy is of a very poor level."

Carlos Alberto, the 1970 World Cup-winning captain, was accorded near-deity status when taking up the post 15 months ago, but it now seems almost certain he will not be offered an extension to his lucrative contract, which expires at the end of the year.

*Dan Brennan*

Done deal...Semin

## Semin 'detached' for national cause

## RUSSIA

YURI SEMIN, the long-time coach of champions Lokomotiv Moscow, has succeeded Georgi Yartsev as national boss after Russia only drew, 1-1, away to Estonia in their most recent World Cup qualifier. The result left them facing a tough task to qualify for the finals and came after yet another disappointing performance.

Semin, 58, who spent a record 18 years with Lokomotiv, winning League titles in 2002 and 2004, took the job on condition he would be allowed to return to his club if Russia did not qualify for Germany and if his national team contract was not prolonged after the end of this year. Lokomotiv and Vitaly Mutko, the new Russian Football Union president, agreed, even terming Semin's new role "a detached mission".

Semin's former team-mate and coaching assistant Vladimir Eshtrekov has taken the helm at Lokomotiv.

*Victor Gusev*

# Mourning – then mayhem

Solidarity...Wisla and Cracovia fans pay tribute to the late Pope

## POLAND

THE MOOD OF RECONCILIATION among rival fans following the death of Pope John Paul II proved short-lived after further outbreaks of hooliganism.

The most serious came just two days after the pontiff's funeral and involved fans of Cracovia, ironically the Pope's favourite club. Twenty of the Krakow side's supporters were arrested following a street battle with Legia Warsaw fans after Cracovia's 1-0 home win. Five policemen were injured.

The violence was in marked contrast to the solidarity in the days leading up to the funeral. Cracovia fans, for example, mingled peacefully with those of normally hated city rivals Wisla and Hutnik at a mass in Cracovia's stadium and at impromptu gatherings in the city.

Remarkably, on the day before the Pope died, the Lech Poznan-Pogon Szczecin game was abandoned after an erroneous TV report sparked rumours among the crowd that he had passed away. The referee called a halt in the 39th minute after fans shouted: "Stop the match!"

*Dariusz Kurowski*

# Gallardo rides again

## ARGENTINA

RIVER PLATE rose to the top of the closing championship standings at the halfway stage, inspired by the return to form of Marcelo Gallardo. After spending much of last year on the injury list, raising questions about whether it had been worth bringing the former international back from Monaco, the 29-year-old has become River's chief playmaker. Some observers are even suggesting that Gallardo should be back in the national team.

The midfielder, who has won 41 caps, has also been scoring for River, including two winners during the club's stroll through the Libertadores Cup group stage. River won all their first five games, and effectively made it through to the last 16 with two matches to spare.

The only blot against River is the so-called 'Sequeira affair'. Referee Oscar Sequeira was not given a match by the federation the weekend after he made several decisions against the club during their 2-1 defeat by Estudiantes de La Plata.

Two weeks later, River lost again, 4-2 to Newell's Old Boys after being 2-0 up, and the referee, Gabriel Brazenas, was also not given a match the following week. Although there is no question of these being official suspensions, they may weigh on referees' minds when officiating in matches involving River.

After 10 rounds, River held a one-point lead over Estudiantes and Velez Sarsfield, who suddenly found their goal touch, scoring 11 in a run of four wins. The Velez management had been criticised when the team scored only five goals in their first six games after strikers Lucas Valdemarin and Cristian Bardaro had been allowed to leave.

Cesar Menotti, the 1978 World Cup-winning coach, was fired by Independiente after just nine games in charge with only two wins to his name. His successor, Miguel Angel Santoro, the club's former keeper, made an immediate impact, switching Menotti's 4-3-1-2 formation to a more conservative 4-4-2 and toppling early leaders Rosario Central 2-0 in his first game in charge.

A fan was killed following the Second Division Cordoba derby between Talleres and Belgrano, bringing the number of football-related fatalities to 177 in the past 66 years. Police blamed infighting over who should lead Talleres' hooligan gang.

*Eric Weil*

**Marcelo magic...Gallardo gets a hug from his team-mates after scoring in a Libertadores Cup game against Nacional of Uruguay**

Before the storm...Paulo Autori gets his message across to the Peru squad

# National coaches bite the dust

**WORLD CUP**

CHILE COACH Juvenal Olmos and Peru coach Paulo Autori lost their jobs within five days of each other, having both taken up the posts in early 2003. Although they had been under fire for indifferent results, off-field matters caused their downfall. Both sides are still in with a chance of making at least a play-off for a place at the World Cup.

Olmos was fired by tempestuous Chilean federation president Reinaldo Sanchez after a telephone row, which apparently blew up over the venue of a meeting of the national team committee. Sanchez wanted it to take place in the coastal resort of Vina del Mar, but Olmos did not see why he should have to make the 120km trek from Santiago and said he would send an assistant instead.

"He told me I had been fired and then hung up in a rude manner," said the 42-year-old coach, who had been regarded as a Chilean Vanderlei Luxemburgo when he led Universidad Catolica to the championship in 2002. "It's the first time I have been kicked out of a job and it's not very pleasant."

Olmos had several run-ins with the federation, mainly over friendlies. He also briefly dropped playmaker David Pizarro for kicking an advertising hoarding and storming down the tunnel when he was substituted against Colombia.

Chile quickly appointed a replacement – Nelson Acosta, who led the team to the 1998 World Cup and was briefly in charge of Bolivia at the start of the 2006 qualifiers.

Autori called it a day because of what he claimed was interference by a Congressional investigation into the Peruvian federation (FPF). The FPF said it had co-operated with the investigators by sending them a copy of Autori's contract, but politicians had then leaked details of his salary.

Autori said that his salary, although 150 times the Peruvian minimum wage, was in keeping with international standards as well as that of his predecessors. "It is unjustified that I am called for questioning about such a private matter," he added.

Peru midfielder Nolberto Solano said: "Congress went over the top. Any coach would be annoyed if they were asked how much they earn. You can't work seriously in Peru."

*Brian Homewood*

# Catolica keep it clean

**CHILE**

UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA goalkeeper Jose Maria Buljubasich went 498 minutes without conceding a goal as his side continued to dominate the opening championship. After being beaten by Humberto Suazo in the 54th minute of the 2-1 win over Audax Italiano on March 6, Buljubasich kept five successive clean sheets before being beaten by Rodrigo Rain in the 12th minute against Universidad de Concepcion. Rain's effort was not enough to stop Catolica, however, as they powered to a 5-2 win to lead Group D by 12 points.

The other two big Santiago clubs, Colo Colo and Universidad de Chile, produced a candidate for Brawl of the Year during their 1-1 draw. Angel Carreno's 81st-minute equaliser for Colo Colo led to a spectacular free-for-all which ended with five players and both coaches sent off and play held up for 10 minutes.

Colo Colo midfielder Jorge Valdivia sparked it off when he celebrated the goal in the face of rival keeper Johnny Herrera, who grabbed Valdivia by both ears. Valdivia was banned for six games, Herrera for five and Colo Colo's Moises Villaroel, sent off along with the other two, for four.

Defending champions Cobreloa topped Group B, despite still arguing over bonuses for winning the 2004 closing championship. The squad became even more irate when they heard about a supposed 'blacklist' of players the club intended to sack at the end of the championship in what they saw as a reprisal. "It would be very serious if they thought of kicking us out for asking for something to which we have every right," said midfielder Jose Luis Diaz.

Chile's disciplinary tribunal has said players can no longer sport nicknames on their shirts. Huachipato midfielder Rodrigo Millar was recently fined £75 for printing 'Chino' (Chinaman) on his shirt, which along with 'Loco' (Madman) and 'Pato' (The Duck) is one of the favourite nicknames in South American football.

*Brian Homewood*

## ROUND-UP

**PERU:** Alianza Lima fans broke into the tunnel and attempted to invade their team's dressing-room after a 2-1 home defeat by Banfield of Argentina knocked them out of the Libertadores Cup. Last year's Peruvian champions also have problems on the domestic front, lying only third after nine rounds of the opening campaign, seven points off the top. After struggling for several years leaders Universitario have come back to life since former Argentina World Cup player Jose Basualdo took the reins.

**PARAGUAY:** Coach Gustavo Costas, who led Alianza Lima to last year's Peruvian title, has enjoyed a great start at Cerro Porteno. The Cyclone went through their first 10 opening championship matches unbeaten, a run that included a 5-0 thumping of arch-rivals Olimpia.

**ECUADOR:** There seems to be no end to Barcelona's turmoil. The Guayaquil club used six coaches during the 2004 season and are already on to their second coach this year after Salvador Capitano was fired eight games into the opening championship. New man Pedro Marchetto's second game in charge ended in a 5-0 defeat at the hands of Deportivo Quito. LDU Quito, coached by Peruvian 1978 World Cup forward Juan Carlos Oblitas, topped the table at halfway.

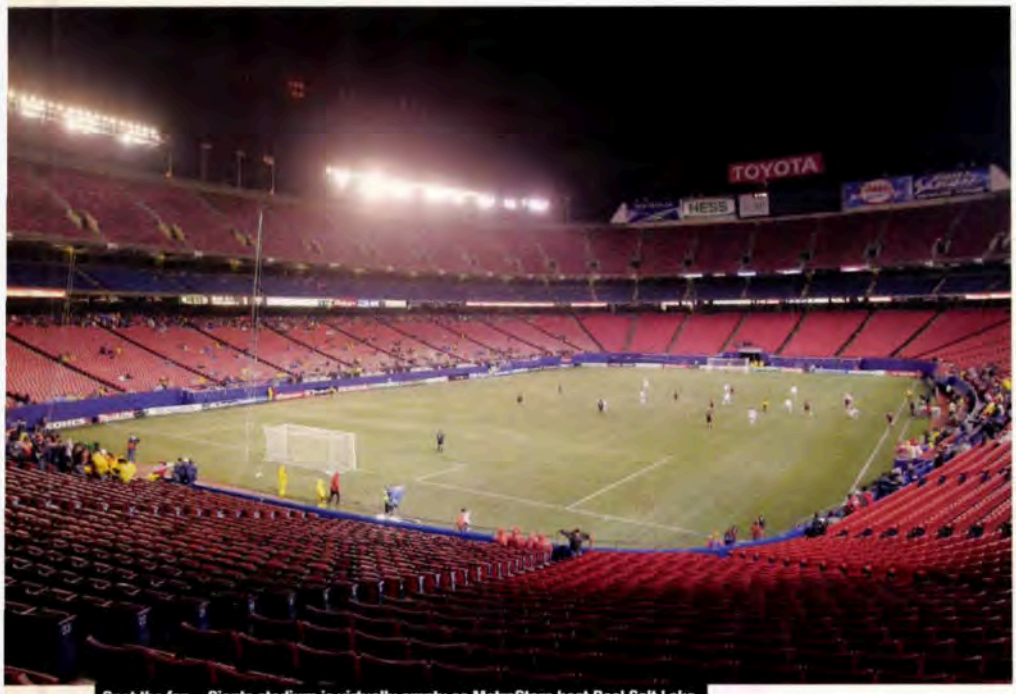
**COLOMBIA:** Victor Aristizabal helped Atletico Nacional keep their opening championship league stage lead by scoring his 300th career goal. The former Sao Paulo and Santos striker is partnered by Edixon Perea in an attack that produced 31 goals in the first 13 games. Atletico Junior's Omar Perez succeeded where Pele failed in the 1970 World Cup by scoring from the halfway line as the defending champions beat Quindio 3-1.

*Brian Homewood*

300 up...Aristizabal

# Will a move prove the saving of MetroStars?

UNITED STATES




Spot the fan...Giants stadium is virtually empty as MetroStars host Real Salt Lake

IN THEIR NINE-YEAR existence MetroStars have won nothing and have never looked like winning anything. During that time they have employed seven coaches and countless players, including notable flops such as Branco and Lothar Matthaus.

Nothing, it seems, goes right for MetroStars; they have been the butt of many jokes and have become an ongoing nightmare for MLS. The New York metropolitan area is acknowledged as a tough place for professional sport. If you want to make it there, you have to be good. And MetroStars have been pitiful.

No rational explanation being available for the team's catalogue of disasters, MLS commissioner Don Garber has decided the problem is location. He believes the club need to get out of New Jersey's artificial-turfed, 77,000-capacity Giants stadium, designed for gridiron football. But that project has been beset by problems. MetroStars have been negotiating for three years with state and municipal authorities in New Jersey to build a soccer-specific stadium, but no ground has yet been broken.

Given all that, it is not surprising there are rumours that the MetroStars franchise will be moved to another city. The rumours have gained strength alongside Garber's continual courting of San Antonio as a likely site for future MLS expansion. MLS signed an agreement with the Texas city, granting it an MLS team, possibly as soon as next season. Under the agreement, San Antonio would build a soccer-specific stadium for the team. But that idea has run into local opposition, and Garber is now praising the already-existing Alamodome – an indoor, 65,000-capacity, artificial-turfed arena.

San Antonio, urged on by Ed Garza, its strongly pro-soccer mayor, is in the middle of a drive to prove it can support an MLS team by selling 5,000 season tickets for its as yet unknown side. The team could indeed be the San Antonio MetroStars. But it is equally likely that either of two other unsettled MLS clubs could move there – Kansas City Wizards (already up for sale) and San Jose Earthquakes.

The idea that MetroStars might be on the move has received some backing from Andrew Murstein, a millionaire New York businessman, who says he intends to "make an offer to MLS to buy a franchise – either an existing team or a new franchise". Possible cities for the new team were cited as San Antonio, Houston...and New York City.

Taking over the moribund MetroStars would not seem a particularly attractive proposition, but many feel that a new team located in New York City itself, where it could draw on the large Hispanic population, would have a good chance of succeeding. The most likely venue, Shea stadium – a baseball arena – happens to be located in an area where there are large Colombian and Ecuadorean immigrant communities.

*Paul Gardner*

# Cruz Azul the favourites

MEXICO

CRUZ AZUL were favourites to win the closing championship having dominated the league stage. They were the top-scoring side with one game to play thanks to in-form strikers Cesar Delgado and Francisco Fonseca. Meanwhile, the defence, led by Federico Lussenhoff, has looked rock-solid. The Argentinian is at last fulfilling the promise shown when he joined two years ago.

Morelia, the only side to have conceded fewer goals than Cruz Azul, were also assured of a place in the eight-team play-offs.

Opening champions Pumas UNAM had a dismal campaign, finishing bottom of Group 1, but were still in contention for silverware after reaching the CONCACAF Champions Cup Final.

Puebla have been relegated after years of mismanagement. They were also demoted in 1999 but kept their top division place by buying the franchise of promoted Union de Curtidores

*Carlos Ramirez*

Defensive rock...Federico Lussenhoff

Over you go...Granwald Scott of Ajax Cape Town is upended by Fello Star Labe's Sylla Idrissa in their Champions League qualifier

# Strength in depth

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

SIX OF THE EIGHT sides through to the group phase of the African Champions League are former winners, while one of the others were runners-up last year.

It is the strongest last eight in the competition's history and again confirms the dominance of sides from the Arabic-speaking north. Egypt have two representatives – five-times winners Zamalek and Al Ahly (three) – as do Tunisia (Esperance, winners 11 years ago, and last year's runners-up Etoile Sahel). Meanwhile, Morocco's Raja Casablanca have won the tournament twice in the last eight years and three times in all.

They will be up against 1998 winners ASEC Abidjan of Ivory Coast and defending champions Enyimba, of Nigeria, on course for an unprecedented third successive title.

Ajax Cape Town are the rookies at this stage and, fittingly, fielded a threadbare team made up mostly of teenagers as they squeezed through their qualifying tie.

They might be affiliates of the four-time European Cup winners whose name they bear but they have little of the experience and polish of their Dutch masters. Only coach Gordon Igesund has any previous experience of the Champions League, having led unfashionable Durban side Manning Rangers into the last eight in 1998.

Ajax won through only on penalties against modest Fello Star Labe of Guinea after both sides won their home legs 2-0. Ajax keeper Moeneeb Josephs, freshly returned from a drugs ban, saved three kicks in the shoot-out.

ASEC were also held to a 2-2 aggregate draw, by Nigerian champions Dolphin FC, but held their nerve to win their penalty shoot-out 5-3. ASEC's persistent loss of players to Belgian side Beveren over recent years means they bare little resemblance to the side that have looked such strong contenders in previous tournaments.

But Enyimba, who have also lost a lot of talent in recent months, are still formidable. Their 6-1 qualifying victory at Zambia's Red Arrows was the biggest away win by any team since the Champions Cup became the Champions League eight years ago.

That said, Enyimba are going to find it much tougher to hold on to the title this season, with Al Ahly and Esperance the two favourites to meet in November's Final.

The Egyptian club have had a dream domestic season and carried that form over into the Champions League. Their 3-2 aggregate win over USM Alger proved a lot easier than the scoreline suggests.

Esperance seem to have the right balance now that their all-demanding president Slim Chiboub has left and despite the regular changes of coaching personnel that he ordered. They proved as much with their 5-2 aggregate win over Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa.

Refereeing controversy continues to dog the continental club competitions, and penalties for home teams are almost standard issue these days. Etoile Sahel overturned their one-goal deficit against Royal Armed Forces of Morocco thanks to an early penalty award from Raphael Evehe of Cameroon, whose name features regularly in controversial incidents.

The draw for the group phase is scheduled to take place on May 28.

*Mark Gleeson*

# Cape Verde hazardous for South Africa

**WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS**

IT IS ALMOST unthinkable, but if the tiny Cape Verde Islands beat South Africa at home in early June in the next round of World Cup qualifying matches they will top their group.

The national team of the former Portuguese colony, a small island archipelago famous for exporting people and collecting shipwrecks, did not even compete in the World Cup qualifiers before the campaign for the 2002 finals. But victory over Bafana Bafana in Praia will mean they leapfrog the current Group 2 leaders.

Coach Alexandre Alhino has overhauled his side by persuading several Portuguese players of Cape Verdian extraction to commit to his team and transformed the country from minnows to potential giantkillers.

In Group 1, Togo and Zambia meet in Lome, while Senegal, the other co-leaders, travel to Congo.

Cameroon, who have been to the last four World Cup finals, must win away to Benin to stay in contention in Group 3. The Indomitable Lions are four points behind leaders Ivory Coast, who travel to Libya.

Dangerous waters...Cape Verde (in blue)

Nigeria can go further clear in Group 4 if they beat bottom side Rwanda away and Angola fail to overcome Algeria at home.

Morocco should stay well clear in Group 5 since they are at home to Malawi, yet to win a match.

Only the five group winners qualify for the finals.

*Mark Gleeson*

# North Korea forced to play away

**WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS**

NORTH KOREA'S ALREADY slim hopes of qualifying for Germany 2006 took another blow when FIFA ordered them to play their final home qualifier, against Japan on June 8, on neutral soil after crowd trouble marred the Koreans' 2-0 home defeat by Iran in March. Fans hurled glass bottles, bricks and seating at players and officials at Pyongyang's Kim Il-song stadium, while North Korean players pushed and shoved Syrian referee Mohammed Kousa after he refused to award them a penalty late in the game.

Nam Song-chol was sent off for his part in the fracas and, at the final whistle, angry fans vented their frustration, resulting in Kousa, his assistants and the Iran team being unable to leave the stadium for more than an hour after the game.

As well as forcing the North Koreans to play Japan on neutral soil, FIFA ordered that the game be played behind closed doors and handed the North Korean federation a fine of £8,800.

FIFA's decision to move the game away from North Korea was greeted warmly by the Japanese football establishment, given the political tensions between the two countries. With issues in the air as diverse as North Korea's desire to acquire nuclear weapons and the right-of-return of Japanese citizens abducted by the Stalinist state, the Japanese were hardly relishing a clash in Pyongyang.

Japan's FA president, Saburo Kawabuchi, said he hoped the game would be played in Malaysia and ruled out staging it in China – another nation where anti-Japan feelings have run high in recent months.

Meanwhile, the North Koreans announced that they would appeal against FIFA's decision, a move surprisingly backed by South Korea.

The North Koreans lost all their first three games in Group B of the final Asian qualifying round and trail Iran, the leaders, by seven points, second-placed Japan by six and Bahrain in third by four with three games to play. The top two teams are guaranteed a place in Germany, with the third-placed side winning a play-off chance.

Iran were also hit with a FIFA sanction following the deaths of six fans in a crush at the end of their March victory over Japan in Tehran's Azadi stadium. The Iranians will be allowed to admit a maximum of 50,000 fans, half the normal capacity of the Azadi, for their June 3 qualifier against North Korea. The federation was also fined £13,200.

*Michael Church*

**Last look...the Pyongyang crowd watch the game against Iran but will not have the chance to see North Korea's final 'home' qualifier**

# Metsu keeps up winning run

**QATAR**

BRUNO METSU CONTINUED to work his magic in the Middle East, following up his successes at United Arab Emirates side Al Ain by leading Qatar's Al Gharafa to the League title. Al Gharafa finished 14 points clear of nearest rivals Al Rayyan having lost only once during the 27-game campaign.

Metsu, who led Senegal to the 2002 World Cup quarter-finals, also won the domestic League title with Al Ain as well as claiming the inaugural Asian Champions League title in 2003. His fine coaching record has led to him being linked with numerous other jobs in the Middle East. There were rumours that he would take the helm of the UAE national team after the departure of Dutchman Aad De Mos, while his name has also been touted as a possible replacement for Saudi Arabia coach Gabriel Calderon.

Former France and Chelsea defender Marcel Desailly, who captained Al Gharafa to their League triumph, has said he intends to continue playing for another season, putting back his intended retirement date by a year. However, the 36-year-old has not said whether he will remain in Qatar or return to Europe.

*Michael Church*

Celebration...Metsu is chaired by the Al Gharafa players

# Antlers on top

**JAPAN**

KASHIMA ANTLERS took advantage of two slip-ups by early leaders Nagoya Grampus Eight to go five points clear after just six games of the new League campaign. While Grampus could only draw 1-1 at home to Sanfrecce Hiroshima and then lost 1-0 at Cerezo Osaka, Antlers beat Kashiwa Reysol 3-1 and Hiroshima 1-0, both away, to take top spot.

Urawa Reds, last year's runners-up, have wobbled from day one and had to wait till game six for their first win – 2-0 at FC Tokyo. Former Turkish international defender Alpay Ozalan hardly helped Reds' cause after being sent off twice in the first three games.

*Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae*

# Sydney go for glamour

**OCEANIA**

SYDNEY FC HAVE established themselves as the glamour club of AUSTRALIA'S new A League after signing former Manchester United forward Dwight Yorke, appointing German World Cup winner Pierre Littbarski as coach and having Hollywood star Anthony LaPaglia as a director. Sydney have also signed three Australians with extensive European experience – Steve Corica (ex-Leicester and Wolves), David Zdrilic (Aberdeen) and Ufuk Talay (Galatasaray). The League kicks off in late August.

The preliminary round of OCEANIA'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP has finally been completed, with Makuru of the Solomon Islands defeating Ba of Fiji 8-2 on aggregate to reach the eight-team finals. The clash had been delayed after wrangles at both FAs over which clubs should represent their countries in the competition.

Ba had initially been stripped of the Fijian League title after allegedly fielding unregistered players. However, they were reinstated as champions on appeal.

Makuru's domestic crown was even more contentiously acquired. The club's owner, a Seventh Day Adventist, forbade them from playing in the Grand Final against Central Realas as it was scheduled for a Saturday – the Sabbath of his religion. Realas then claimed they should have been declared winners and declined to participate in the rematch proposed by the federation. Eventually, just one day before a deadline set by the Oceania confederation, the Solomon Islands named Makuru as its standard bearers. Curiously, the first leg against Ba was played on a Saturday!

Earlier, Vanuatu's Tafea defeated Lotoha'pai of Tonga 7-1 on aggregate to reach the Club Championship finals.

Australia made heavy weather of defeating Vanuatu in the OCEANIA UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIP Final, being held goalless until David Williams scored eight minutes from the end.

*Paul Moon*

Trophy time...Dwight Yorke at Man Utd

## ASIAN ROUND-UP

● Englishman Stephen Constantine has parted company with the INDIAN federation at the end of his contract as national coach.

● Brazilian coach Ze Mario was fired by SAUDI ARABIA'S Al Shabab after his side lost 3-0 to Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates in the Asian Champions League. Argentinian Daniel Romeo has taken over on a three-month contract.

● Paul Mony Samuel, a former Malaysian FA general secretary, is the new deputy general secretary of the ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION. He is likely to replace long-serving compatriot Peter Velappan when he retires as general secretary in 2007.

● League champions Al Qadisiya completed the Double in KUWAIT after beating Al Kuwait on penalties in the Crown Prince Cup Final. Al Kuwait had earlier sacked Dutch coach Theo Bucker, replacing him with Mohammed Abdullah.

● Balestier Khalsa's Kengne Ludovick struck the two goals that ended Tampines Rovers 20-match unbeaten run in the SINGAPOREAN League.

● Sun Hei beat Happy Valley 4-2 to win HONG KONG'S Sunray Cave Senior Shield for the first time.

*Michael Church & Azam Mahmood*

# After the fire

**Stadium safety has improved since the Bradford City disaster, but many English clubs still suffer crippling mismanagement. By David Conn**

THE END OF the football season can be a strange time in England. So many competitions reaching their exciting conclusion – Champions League, domestic leagues, FA Cup – but also commemorations of the many who died at similarly climactic matches not so long ago.

The anniversary of the deaths of 96 Liverpool supporters at the FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough in April 1989 was marked this year, as ever, by a memorial service at Anfield. It was attended by the families of those who died, around 6,000 fans, and the players, manager, directors and staff of Liverpool FC.

It was eerie that as the 20th anniversary ticked round of the Heysel disaster, Liverpool drew Juventus this season in the Champions League. Anfield did strive to strike the right note of apology and friendship for the mess and shame that led to 39 Juventus fans being killed.

The fire at Third Division Bradford City on May 11, 1985, in which 56 people died, has been largely overlooked because Heysel happened just 18 days later. It has been English football's less-remembered disaster, marked every year in the Yorkshire town itself with a modest memorial service not usually noted much elsewhere.

But read the official report into the disaster, by Mr Justice Oliver Popplewell, and you feel its details should be seared into the consciousness of every football person in Britain.

Bradford were already Third Division champions before that day's game against Lincoln City, and civic dignitaries were among the crowd to see the trophy handed out.

Now...the modern Valley Parade complies with the safety regulations

The club's Valley Parade ground, run down like so many others in the 1980s, had a wooden main stand which had hardly been improved since it was built in 1908. There was a void beneath the stand, gaps in the floorboards, and the fire started when a match or cigarette dropped into what Popplewell described as "debris" below. That ramshackle scene had been tolerated for so long that after the fire a policeman found among the wreckage a copy of the local newspaper dated November 4, 1968.

The details of how the fire rapidly devoured the stand, how exits to the back of the stand were locked in breach of safety guidelines, the fact that the old and young died together, are almost unbearable to read, and heartbreaking for the families and those who lost friends to contemplate.

However, some other, less well-publicised aspects leap out from the Popplewell Report. The judge said the club should have complied with the government's then safety guidelines, which had advisory rather than compulsory status at Third Division level. The fire risk and inability to evacuate the stand quickly enough were in serial breach of those guidelines.

### Glaring risk

Worse, the fire risk was so glaring that it had been specifically drawn to the club's attention in writing, three times. The Health & Safety Executive wrote twice, in 1981, and the local county council did so in 1984, a year before the fire, but neither body even received a reply. It was a bitter twist that the club had applied for a grant and that work was going to start on the Monday after the Lincoln match to replace the stand's timber flooring with concrete.

Popplewell seems to have gone quite easy on the club, saying his job was not to apportion blame, and he reported straight that Bradford were struggling for money. "Football at this level is run on a shoestring," he commented.

The club's chairman, Stafford Heginbotham, told Popplewell that he never saw the most recent HSE letter due to a series of mix-ups, but said that even if he had, he still would not have acted on the warning about the fire risk because he believed it applied to a more senior club and that "the cost would have been considerable".

This was extraordinary evidence to give an inquiry after 56 people had died because of that

Then…a policeman surveys the destruction after the main stand fire that accounted for 56 lives

identified fire hazard. But also, the assumption that the club had no money crumples under scrutiny. Bradford, it is true, had been in receivership in 1983 and nearly gone bust, but in 1985 they had a sparkling young side including Stuart McCall and John Hendrie, who went on to higher things. They won promotion, and their accounts showed they turned over £621,000, or £1.21million in today's terms.

Not massive money, but enough, you might think, to remove litter from underneath a stand and make it safe. However, that year only £4,000 (£7,800 today) was spent on the ground, while £419,000, the equivalent of £817,050 today, nearly 70 per cent of income, was spent on players' wages.

Bradford chose to spend what money they had chasing the dream on the field, rather than ensuring the basic safety of supporters watching in the stands.

On the same day as the fire at Bradford, a 15-year-old supporter, Ian Hambridge, was killed when a wall collapsed at the match between Birmingham City and Leeds, where there had been serious crowd trouble. Popplewell's inquiry included that incident, too, and lessons to be learned after Heysel, so the problems of unsafe, neglected grounds were overshadowed by contemplation of the 'English disease' of hooliganism. Popplewell did recommend tightening up the ground safety code, but it remained advisory, not statutory.

A number of measures relating to hooliganism were passed into law, however, including the prohibition still in force against drinking alcohol in sight of a football pitch, and Margaret Thatcher's government moved to implement an identity card scheme which football fans organised to oppose. On safety, however, too little was done, and the game stumbled on towards Hillsborough.

Only after that, following the Taylor Report into the disaster, did the government stop allowing clubs to be voluntarily responsible for safety and implement a compulsory regime of ground improvement and management. The move to all-seater stadia in the top two divisions, not universally popular with fans, is the best known of Taylor's recommendations. His comprehensive report ended over a century of football muddling on through periodic disasters, and, with grants of public money, provided the basis for English football's renaissance and commercial boom in the 1990s.

**'Stafford Heginbotham, the club chairman, told the inquiry he would not have acted on the risk warning'**

### Miraculous feat

Fast forward to Bradford City just three years ago. They had performed the ultimate recovery, promotion to the Premier League, in 1999, and an even more miraculous feat, staying up in 2000.

Then, however, the chairman, Geoffrey Richmond, forgot about running a tight ship, and splashed out for expensive and inappropriate players such as Benito Carbone, Dan Petrescu and Stan Collymore. Richmond later confessed that the spending spree had been "six weeks of madness".

Bradford were relegated in 2001, then, in May 2002, collapsed into administration with debts of £36m. Once again, they had spent money they did not have, chasing the football dream, and more than 20 English clubs tumbled into insolvency after them.

Contrary to what football would like to believe, the basic problems of the 1980s have not gone away – it is just that the government made it law for grounds to be safe, so, at least, supporters no longer die as a consequence of clubs' mismanagement.

# Spent force?

**Howard Johnson on why Alex Ferguson can no longer call the shots**

ANYONE WHO HAD the 'good fortune' to witness that amazing Alex Ferguson TV outburst after John Motson had asked him a question he took exception to will know that the one-time Glaswegian docker likes the idea that he's got a bit of muscle at his disposal.

A fairly innocuous enquiry about Roy Keane's disciplinary record led to a furious string of expletives directed at the clearly cowering commentator. Ferguson barked: "You know the rules here. You're not getting in here again."

The implication was clear. In order to gain media access to Britain's biggest and most glamorous football club there are certain protocols that have to be followed, certain marks that can't be overstepped.

It was typical Fergie. His management style ever since arriving at Old Trafford has been based on the unassailable 'truths' that United have far more clout than anyone else and that everyone else needs United an awful lot more than the club needs them. Cross him and you will pay.

Not for Sir Alex the new-fangled nonsense of winning people over through a charm offensive. Fergie rules the roost at United. And might is right. enough to do the trick and get everyone in line. He is Manchester United manager – and that means he makes the rules. No one else.

This is why more than a few eyebrows were raised when Ferguson made such a sustained public attack on Chelsea – and in particular their chief executive Peter Kenyon, formerly with United – over the recent meeting with United defender Rio Ferdinand in a London restaurant.

With all eyes already on the new powerhouse of English football over the alleged 'tapping-up' of Arsenal defender Ashley Cole, Ferguson was quick to go on the offensive, despite Chelsea's assurances to Old Trafford that the Ferdinand meeting was purely coincidental.

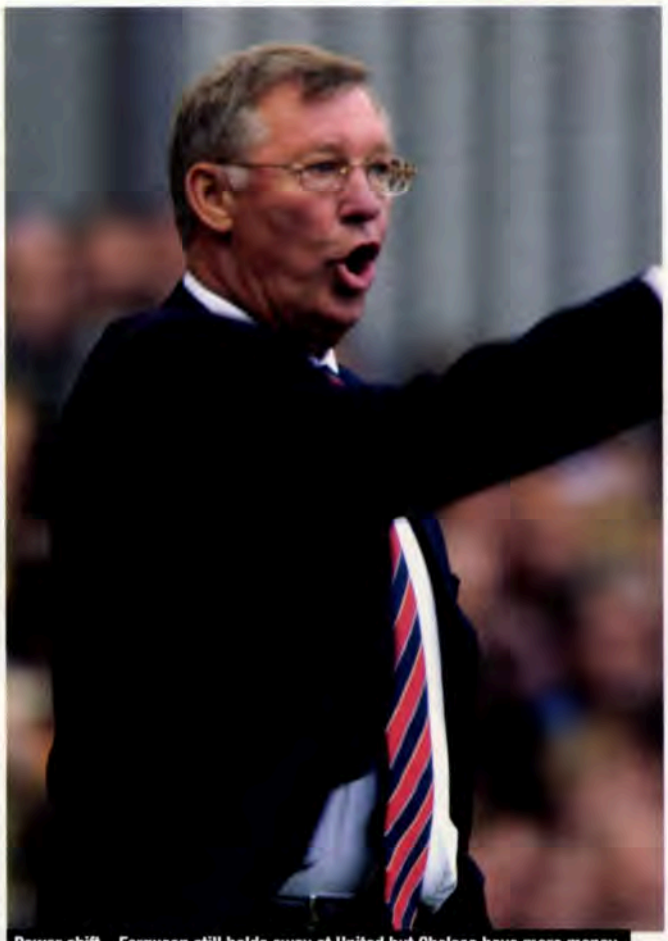
"The club has accepted Chelsea's explanation?" he fumed. "Well, that may be someone else's view, but it's certainly not mine. I've not been over-encouraged by Peter Kenyon's words that he doesn't want to sign Rio. For a chief executive of a Premier League club – with the recent history they've had – to sit in a restaurant like that is amazing. I don't know if it's contempt or whether he is thumbing his nose at us or what."

Those in the know would have

## 'In case Fergie's missed it, Chelsea now look stronger'

This unshakeable belief that United are simply more important than anyone else has coloured Ferguson's approach to the business of managing the club from top to bottom. Lippy reporters, 'big-time Charlie' footballers, annoying pop-star wives. They're all the same to Fergie. Irritating flies in the ointment who can all be sorted out by the tried and trusted method of the hair dryer. A good bawling-out and the threat of being excommunicated from The Golden Kingdom is usually choked on their coffee when they heard that one. If anyone in English football has recent form in this murky area, then it's Ferguson. Manchester United have consistently been accused of not playing by the rules in their attempts to secure new signings.

When David Bellion moved from Sunderland to Old Trafford in July 2003 the selling club's then chairman, Bob Murray, called United's tactics "despicable, shabby and arrogant, breaking every rule in the book, whether written or ethical".



Power shift...Ferguson still holds sway at United but Chelsea have more money

When Arjen Robben, then of PSV, was spotted being shown around Old Trafford in February 2004 by Ferguson himself, PSV chairman Harry Van Raaij said he recognised "exactly the same actions that he has taken when he approached Stam and Van Nistelrooy. It's his way of doing business, but it's not my way. There was absolutely no contact from any delegate of United and we did not know about the visit."

When United were trying to prise Louis Saha away from Fulham, manager Chris Coleman simply called his United counterpart "a bully".

In the light of these comments, Ferguson's words about Chelsea seem little short of hysterical, in both senses of the word. Ferguson is a manager who's been used to making his own rules to get what he wants. He's been doing it for as long as he can remember.

### The lure of London

Now, though, all of a sudden there's an English rival that has more financial clout than United and which also has the added benefit of being based in London, where foreign players in particular seem inexorably drawn. And Fergie doesn't like it. Robben chose to sign for Chelsea over United, which not so very long ago would have been unthinkable.

This is a whole new world for Sir Alex. Where in the past Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger could get one over on his rival by maybe out-thinking him, now there's a rival club that can simply outspend him.

Chelsea's title triumph under Jose Mourinho thanks to Roman Abramovich's millions means many things. Above all, that Ferguson can no longer simply flex his muscles and shout the odds when something happens that he doesn't like. In case Fergie's missed it, Chelsea have been working out. And they now look fitter, stronger, sleeker and more powerful.

How will Ferguson respond to this new management landscape? If his comments about Chelsea and Rio are anything to go by, with anger and indignation and the firm belief that something must be done.

The fact that United chief executive David Gill has absolutely no intention of making any kind of official complaint over the affair suggests he for one doesn't want any bright lights shining into any of United's darker recesses.

Someone's standing up to Sir Alex these days, which means maybe now we'll find out exactly how hard he really is. Motson, for one, knows Ferguson can dish it out. But now's the time to find out whether he can take it.

# MEDIA WATCH

## Chelsea's 'chance' encounter with Rio Ferdinand

"[Chelsea chief executive] Peter Kenyon phoned his Manchester United counterpart David Gill to insist he met Rio Ferdinand by chance in a London restaurant at the weekend. Once rumours of a meeting started to surface on Tuesday, in a concerted effort to avoid more 'tapping up' claims, it is understood Kenyon phoned Gill to reassure him the club had no interest in the England centre-back."
The Press Association's Martyn Ziegler suggests Chelsea went to great lengths in order to reassure United

"Pini Zahavi, the defender's agent, yesterday gave warning that the cost of keeping the player at Old Trafford would be upwards of £100,000 a week. Zahavi met David Gill and Maurice Watkins, United's solicitor, in London yesterday morning in the hope of resolving Ferdinand's future, but negotiations ended at lunchtime with an agreement nowhere in sight."
Detective work by *The Times'* Oliver Kay reveals that the 'chance' meeting might well have proved a useful negotiating tool for Ferdinand's agent as he discusses a new contract with United

Flak from the fans...Ferdinand's meeting with Kenyon has brought criticism from United supporters

"If integrity is still a value worth protecting, then Rio Ferdinand's is in dire need of repair this morning. Ferdinand was afforded compassionate support by United during the dark days of his long suspension after failing to take a drugs test. If smoke confirms the existence of fire, then Ferdinand owes his employers a convincing explanation, if not a grovelling apology, for twice being in the same place as Kenyon on the same evening."
*The Sun's* John Sadler

"Rio loves it in Manchester and wants to stay there, but it depends on United – not on him – whether that happens. He's ready to go a long way to make sure it does but everybody has to give a little. It's called negotiation. Rio deserves to earn as much as, if not more than, the other top central defenders in the world."
Pini Zahavi tells *The Sun's* Shaun Custis that he's after big bucks for his client

"If Kenyon is being deceitful over Ferdinand, it would be the bare-faced lie that finishes him. Even those with allegiance to the Chelsea chief executive believe that, were a bid for the United defender to follow such bold denials, Kenyon would be forced to stand down. It would mean that, having been caught meeting Ashley Cole in a London hotel, Chelsea were so contemptuous of the rules that they were now trying to lure their rivals' best players in the midst of a busy restaurant. Surely no one could be that brazen, that arrogant."
*The Times'* Matt Dickinson explains why he believes Chelsea must be innocent

"I think Kenyon was set up over his 'chance' meeting with Rio Ferdinand in two London eateries. Put it this way. News of the Night of the Two Dinners hasn't exactly harmed Ferdinand's delicate contract negotiations with Manchester United. There's a new urgency to them now and suddenly Ferdinand's agent, Pini Zahavi, feels empowered enough to start shouting the odds about how big a wage rise his client should be awarded. If it's an award for sheer bloody brass neck and rank ingratitude we're seeking to bestow this week, that should go to Ferdinand. Not Kenyon."
*The Mirror's* Oliver Holt is also wary of blaming Chelsea

"Some think that the public nature of the Ferdinand meeting places it above suspicion, but this depends on Kenyon's taste for cunning. A cynic might argue it was only the clandestine nature of the talks with Cole that put Chelsea in the dock. Had they met in public, all parties could have claimed pure coincidence, as Kenyon, Ferdinand and Zahavi have, and the Premier League would have had little choice but to accept the explanation."
*The Times'* Martin Samuel isn't so sure

"United fans pride themselves on not turning on their own club in times of crisis, but the controversy surrounding Ferdinand provoked strong negative reactions on internet chatrooms."
*The Mirror's* David McDonnell reveals that United fans have lost patience with their star defender

# The numbers game

**Of all the innovations brought to England by Jose Mourinho, his tactics have been the most important, says Keir Radnedge**

ROMAN ABRAMOVICH is so impressed with Chelsea's Premiership triumph that he wants manager Jose Mourinho to stay on for a decade.

Presumably the Russian values the coach for the simple fact of his instant success, but a tactical dimension also played a significant role in prising that remarkable vote of confidence out of the billionaire.

Two more crucial goals from Frank Lampard brought Chelsea a 2-0 win at Bolton to secure the club's second League crown – 50 years after the first. The victory also sealed the reputation of the Portuguese coach, who succeeded Claudio Ranieri only 10 months ago.

Peter Kenyon, Abramovich's chief executive envoy, said: "When Jose first came here we talked about him being here for 10 years and we have told him again that we want him to stay that long. He is undoubtedly the best manager in the Premiership. He is exceptional.

"We have been impressed with him from the first time we met him. He came with unbelievable credentials and is the best manager we could have. There is great team spirit about the place and it's all down to him. I can assure everyone his future is very much at Chelsea."

Of course, the champagne party at Bolton was followed by a Champions League exit in Liverpool, which meant Chelsea could celebrate their centenary with 'only' the double of Premiership and League Cup.

But amid all the magic numbers – at press time, one League defeat, 14 nationalities, 24 clean sheets – is another combination that has gone virtually unnoticed: 4-1-3-2.

Less fuss is made now over tactical shapes. That is partly due to higher fitness levels, which make football a far more fluid game, but also partly because the time for major innovation is over.

In the early 20th century teams played with a goalkeeper, one defender, one half-back and eight forwards. Plenty of goals but no security. Thus came the graduation towards the original 'WM', with two full-backs and three half-backs, then Herbert Chapman's Arsenal amendment of the stopper centre-half.

Brazil caused a sensation by winning the 1958 World Cup in

Talking tactics...Mourinho gives Robben his instructions

## IT'S ALL GONE WRONG FOR...

### ALAN CURBISHLEY

He's for ever being talked about as the young manager most likely to move on to bigger and better things. But at the age of 47 surely time is running out for the Charlton boss. While there's no doubt that Curbishley has successfully stabilised the small London club in the top flight, it suddenly seems an awfully long time ago that he was being seriously touted as a future England manager. A dreadful run of five defeats in seven matches towards the end of the season set tongues a-wagging. The harsh truth is that he looks like he's missed the boat.

Run of defeats...Curbishley

Sweden with 4-2-4, and turned it into 4-3-3 to win again in Chile in 1962. England took it a step further, winning the 1966 World Cup with a 4-4-2. That – for all the fun and games with catenaccio, 3-5-2 and Holland's hybrid 3-3-3-1 – is still the No 1 formation. England remain adherents to it under Sven Goran Eriksson, some 40 years on.

The trick is to find a winning variation. Mourinho achieved this by using Claude Makelele as an anchor in front of the defence, just as he did with Costinha during his successful time as FC Porto coach.

Ahead of Makelele is the trio whose make-up depends on the needs of the match: Lampard has been ever-present in the centre, there to eat up the yards; Tiago and Joe Cole to work away on the flanks; or Arjen Robben and Damien Duff when unbridled attack is the name of the game.

**Uncharted channels**

Chelsea have profited because the system was new. Most Premiership teams had become tactically complacent, used to the opposing 4-4-2 systems cancelling each other out. But the likes of Lampard, Cole, Robben and Duff have been running down channels no opponent had previously mapped out.

Next season will be different and it will be fascinating to see how Mourinho stays ahead of the game. As he pauses in his plotting, though, he might spare the thought to send a bottle of champagne to Manchester United's Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Wayne Rooney. It was their goals on October 24 that brought Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten League run to a juddering halt. The shock also derailed the Gunners' domestic momentum. Until then they had been playing some of the finest – if not *the* finest – football seen since the Premiership's launch.

But once the psychological veneer had been cracked, so the physical limitations were revealed. Serious injuries to Sol Campbell and Gilberto Silva exposed a lack of depth and experience in defence and midfield, no matter that youngsters Philippe Senderos, Cesc Fabregas and Mathieu Flamini rose superbly to the challenge.

That left Arsenal to scrap for second place with Man Utd, whose £20million outlay on Wayne Rooney was rewarded with 11 goals in 22 starts but who suffered from the injuries to and poor form of Van Nistelrooy.

Liverpool failed infuriatingly to import their Champions League form into the Premiership, while Tottenham – with a fascinating, futuristic transfer policy – wasted valuable time fumbling before common sense forced Martin Jol's managerial promotion in place of Jacques Santini.

That left the door wide open for industrious sides such as Everton and Bolton to challenge for European places.

Bolton have been a confusing side because they mixed the skill and class of Jay-Jay Okocha and Fernando Hierro with such a solid physical commitment.

It proved a winning mixture for manager Sam Allardyce, and assuming they make Europe next season, it is also fair to assume they will apply the frighteners there too.

## 'Mourinho's trick was to play Makelele as anchor man'

# WIN a top-quality Mitre football

mitre

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football for this month's Quiz. The first correct entry selected at random after June 17 will win the ball.

**THIS MONTH'S POSER**
**Name the famous stadium pictured**

**SEND YOUR ENTRY TO:**
JUNE QUIZ, *World Soccer*,
King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street,
London SE1 9LS

**APRIL QUIZ**
**Winner:** Craig Jones, Braintree, Essex.
**Answer:** AZ's Alkmaarderhout stadium.

Champions League Competition

## OVERALL WINNER

Congratulations to James Kearns, who is the overall winner of our 2004-05 Champions League competition. He will travel to Istanbul for the Final on May 25. Thanks to the hundreds of readers who took part in the competition.

Loyalty...Gerrard

## IT'S ALL GONE RIGHT FOR...

### STEVEN GERRARD

When the Liverpool captain met Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho and chief executive Peter Kenyon during Euro 2004 he was minutes away from agreeing to move to Stamford Bridge. He did not, remaining loyal to his roots and insisting that he would give his hometown club another season to confirm their ambition. But he refused to commit to Anfield beyond this summer, and when he scored an own goal during Liverpool's defeat by Mourinho's side in this season's League Cup Final the joke was that it was the first of many for Chelsea. Now it will be Gerrard leading Liverpool out in the Champions League Final in Istanbul and, perhaps, lifting the club's fifth European Cup. Not even Roman Abramovich's millions can buy that tantalising prospect.

# TALENT SCOUT

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

## Oscar USTARI

## Have Argentina found a world-class keeper?

IT IS SOME time since Argentina produced a genuinely world-class goalkeeper. But if Independiente's Oscar Ustari can take his junior form into senior football then the long wait is surely over.

The country's last great goalkeeping hope, Albano Bizarri, became best known for giving John Toshack a heart attack every time the ball was crossed into the Real Madrid box. Ustari's future coaches will be less frequent visitors to the cardiologist. Tall and commanding, calm and athletic, safe under fire, Ustari belongs to the elite group of keepers who make the goal look tiny in the eye of opposing strikers.

Argentinians usually like their keepers to be larger-than-life figures. Ustari is no loudmouth or showman. Instead, he has the presence of those who need not shout to be heard. "If I'm winning man-of-the-match awards it's because the team is not performing well," he says, "so I prefer not to stand out so much. My main function is to spread calm through the team."

A glance at his record with Argentina's junior sides is enough to assure defenders that their mistake will not automatically lead to a goal for the opposition. In 21 competitive matches for his country's Under-17 and Under-20 sides, Ustari has conceded only 13 goals. This June's World Youth Cup represents both the high point of his career so far and the end of an era. The tournament, in Holland, offers the prospect of a major title, and brings to a close his time as a junior. Beyond the World Youth Cup, senior football beckons.

Ustari has yet to appear in the Independiente first team. But Argentina like to promote from within the ranks. Midfielder Javier Mascherano, for example, was awarded a senior cap before he had made his River Plate debut.

Ustari, then, is certainly in with a chance of making next year's World Cup squad, if only for experience. He has already been included in the senior squad for friendlies and watched everything wide-eyed from his position on the bench.

"There's nothing like being with the national team," he said last July, when Argentina, warming up for the Copa America, lost to Colombia and beat Peru. "Every time Roberto Ayala or Javier Zanetti spoke I got goose bumps. It might not come across too well, but I really enjoyed seeing both sides of the coin; the atmosphere in the dressing-room after a defeat and after a win are totally different, and experiencing both taught me a lot."

The chances are that with Ustari in goal the celebrations will be more common than the lamentations.

*Tim Vickery*

**FACT FILE**

**Club** Independiente
**Country** Argentina
**Born** July 3, 1986, in Rivadavia, Buenos Aires
**Honours** South American Under-17 Championship

# Per MERTESACKER

## Giant stopper starting to stand tall for Germany

GERMAN INTERNATIONAL stopper Per Mertesacker does not stand out just because of his height (1.98m) and talent. His sense of fair play also distinguishes him from most other centre-backs. There are no over-the-top tackles, shirt-tugging or back-chat to referees from the Hannover man. Indeed, Mertesacker has not received a single booking during his time with the club's youth and first teams.

The 20-year-old's tackles are hard but legitimate, he has the pace to cope with even the liveliest of forwards and, of course, his giant frame makes him favourite for every ball in the air. Add anticipation and a mature, unflappable attitude and you have a fine defensive package. No wonder he is being tipped to be a national team fixture for the next decade and that fellow professionals recently voted him the most promising young player in the country.

"Per's most important quality is consistency," says his father Stefan, who runs Hannover's amateur section. "He keeps mistakes to a minimum. He does what a centre-back has to do – play steadily."

Mertesacker has been on Hannover's books since the age of nine, though he was not particularly highly rated early on. That all changed three years ago when, almost overnight, he turned from being just a tall, skinny kid to the focal point of the youth team defence, dominating and organising with calm authority.

Mid-way through last season injury to Greece star Kostas Konstantinidis freed up a berth in the first team's central defence, and coach Ewald Lienen had no hesitation in giving Mertesacker his chance to step up. The youngster was hardly making his Bundesliga bow at the best of times, with Hannover fighting relegation and shipping goals at an alarming rate. But Mertesacker settled in straight away, and he retained his place for the rest of the campaign after putting in a series of excellent displays that underpinned the club's escape from the drop zone.

After more impressive work this season for Hannover and the German Under-21s, Mertesacker was called up by senior national team boss Jurgen Klinsmann. He made his debut as a substitute in the October friendly with Iran and then started games against Cameroon, Japan, Thailand and Argentina. "Per has taken his opportunity superbly," declared Klinsmann. "He's intelligent and extremely level-headed."

"Everything has happened to me so quickly," says Mertesacker, nicknamed 'Latte', the German for goalpost. "A year ago I was not even in the Hannover first team. Now I'm playing for my country with the best footballers in the land."

Not surprisingly, Mertesacker is attracting interest from other clubs, with Bayern Munich, Sampdoria and Udinese all rumoured to be watching him closely. But while the youngster is unlikely to see out his contract with Hannover, which runs until 2008, he is certainly not in a hurry to leave. "A transfer this summer would be unthinkable," he says. "It's too early in my career. I want to develop further at Hannover and hopefully achieve some success here, like qualifying for Europe. That, and trying to keep my place in the Germany squad, is enough for now."

*Nick Bidwell*

**FACT FILE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Club | Hannover |
| Country | Germany |
| Born | September 29, 1984, in Hannover |
| International debut | October 2004, v Iran |
| International caps | 5 (0 goals) |

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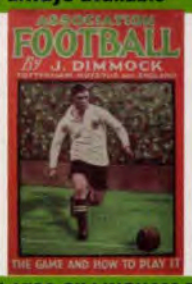


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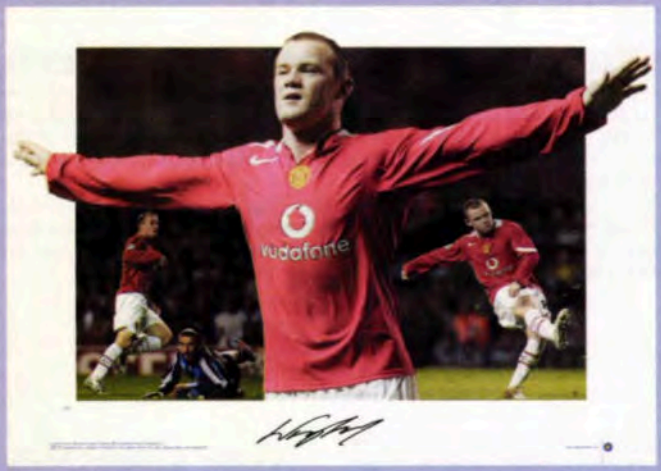


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| Senegal | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 13 |
| Congo | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| Liberia | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Mali | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 2 |

05.06.04 Senegal-Congo ..... 2-0
05.06.04 Zambia-Togo ..... 1-0
06.06.04 Liberia-Mali ..... 1-0
19.06.04 Mali-Zambia ..... 1-1
20.06.04 Congo-Liberia ..... 3-0
20.06.04 Togo-Senegal ..... 3-1
03.07.04 Senegal-Zambia ..... 1-0
04.07.04 Congo-Mali ..... 1-0
04.07.04 Liberia-Togo ..... 0-0
04.09.04 Zambia-Liberia ..... 1-0
05.09.04 Mali-Senegal ..... 2-2
05.09.04 Togo-Congo ..... 2-0
10.10.04 Congo-Zambia ..... 2-3
10.10.04 Liberia-Senegal ..... 0-3
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27.03.05 Mali-Togo ..... 1-2
05.06.05 Congo-Senegal
05.06.05 Mali-Liberia
05.06.05 Togo-Zambia
17.06.05 Liberia-Congo
17.06.05 Senegal-Togo
17.06.05 Zambia-Mali
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02.09.05 Zambia-Senegal
07.10.05 Congo-Togo
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07.10.05 Senegal-Mali

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| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Africa | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 12 |
| Cape Verde Is | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 10 |
| Ghana | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| DR Congo | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| Burkina Faso | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| Uganda | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 |

05.06.04 Burkina Faso-Ghana ..... 1-0
05.06.04 South Africa-Cape Verde Is ..... 2-1
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10.10.04 Ghana-DR Congo ..... 0-0
10.10.04 Uganda-South Africa ..... 0-1
26.03.05 Burkina Faso-Cape Verde Is ..... 1-2
26.03.05 South Africa-Uganda ..... 2-1
27.03.05 DR Congo-Ghana ..... 1-1
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07.10.05 South Africa-DR Congo
07.10.05 Uganda-Burkina Faso

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| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ivory Coast | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 15 |
| Cameroon | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 11 |
| Egypt | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 10 |
| Libya | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 10 |
| Benin | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 2 |
| Sudan | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 2 |

06.06.04 Cameroon-Benin ..... 2-1
06.06.04 Ivory Coast-Libya ..... 2-0
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18.06.04 Libya-Cameroon ..... 0-0
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04.07.04 Benin-Egypt ..... 3-3
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03.09.04 Libya-Benin ..... 4-1
05.09.04 Egypt-Cameroon ..... 3-2
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27.03.05 Egypt-Libya ..... 4-1
27.03.05 Ivory Coast-Benin ..... 3-0
03.06.05 Libya-Ivory Coast
04.06.05 Benin-Cameroon
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| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nigeria | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 13 |
| Angola | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 11 |
| Zimbabwe | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Gabon | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| Algeria | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| Rwanda | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 |

05.06.04 Algeria-Angola ..... 0-0
05.06.04 Gabon-Zimbabwe ..... 1-1
05.06.04 Nigeria-Rwanda ..... 2-0
19.06.04 Rwanda-Gabon ..... 3-1
20.06.04 Angola-Nigeria ..... 1-0
20.06.04 Zimbabwe-Algeria ..... 1-1
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26.03.05 Nigeria-Gabon ..... 2-0
27.03.05 Algeria-Rwanda ..... 1-0
27.03.05 Zimbabwe-Angola ..... 2-0
05.06.05 Angola-Algeria
05.06.05 Rwanda-Nigeria
05.06.05 Zimbabwe-Gabon
17.06.05 Gabon-Rwanda
17.06.05 Nigeria-Angola
19.06.05 Algeria-Zimbabwe
02.09.05 Algeria-Nigeria
02.09.05 Angola-Gabon
02.09.05 Zimbabwe-Rwanda
07.10.05 Gabon-Algeria
07.10.05 Nigeria-Zimbabwe
07.10.05 Rwanda-Angola

**Group 5**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morocco | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 12 |
| Kenya | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Guinea | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| Tunisia | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 8 |
| Botswana | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 6 |
| Malawi | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 16 | 3 |

05.06.04 Malawi-Morocco ..... 1-1
05.06.04 Tunisia-Botswana ..... 4-1
19.06.04 Botswana-Malawi ..... 2-0
20.06.04 Guinea-Tunisia ..... 2-1
03.07.04 Botswana-Morocco ..... 0-1
03.07.04 Malawi-Guinea ..... 1-1
04.09.04 Kenya-Malawi ..... 3-2
04.09.04 Morocco-Tunisia ..... 1-1
05.09.04 Guinea-Botswana ..... 4-0
09.10.04 Botswana-Kenya ..... 2-1
09.10.04 Malawi-Tunisia ..... 2-2
10.10.04 Guinea-Morocco ..... 1-1
17.11.04 Kenya-Guinea ..... 2-1
09.02.05 Morocco-Kenya ..... 5-1
26.03.05 Kenya-Botswana ..... 1-0
26.03.05 Morocco-Guinea ..... 1-0
26.03.05 Tunisia-Malawi ..... 7-0
04.06.05 Botswana-Tunisia
04.06.05 Morocco-Malawi
05.06.05 Guinea-Kenya
11.06.05 Tunisia-Guinea
17.06.05 Kenya-Morocco
18.06.05 Malawi-Botswana
17.08.05 Tunisia-Kenya
02.09.05 Kenya-Tunisia
02.09.05 Morocco-Botswana
02.09.05 Guinea-Malawi
07.10.05 Malawi-Kenya
07.10.05 Tunisia-Morocco
07.10.05 Botswana-Guinea

*Group winners qualify for finals*

### ASIA

**4.5 finals berths**

#### 2nd stage

**Group A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Korea | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Saudi Arabia | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Kuwait | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Uzbekistan | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 |

09.02.05 South Korea-Kuwait ..... 2-0
09.02.05 Uzbekistan-Saudi Arabia ..... 1-1
25.03.05 Kuwait-Uzbekistan ..... 2-1
25.03.05 Saudi Arabia-South Korea ..... 2-0
30.03.05 Kuwait-Saudi Arabia ..... 0-0
30.03.05 South Korea-Uzbekistan ..... 2-1
03.06.05 Saudi Arabia-Kuwait
03.06.05 Uzbekistan-South Korea
08.06.05 Kuwait-South Korea
08.06.05 Saudi Arabia-Uzbekistan
17.08.05 South Korea-Saudi Arabia
17.08.05 Uzbekistan-Kuwait

**Group B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iran | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Japan | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Bahrain | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| North Korea | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0 |

09.02.05 Bahrain-Iran ..... 0-0
09.02.05 Japan-North Korea ..... 2-1
25.03.05 Iran-Japan ..... 2-1
25.03.05 North Korea-Bahrain ..... 1-2
30.03.05 Japan-Bahrain ..... 1-0
30.03.05 North Korea-Iran ..... 0-2
03.06.05 Iran-North Korea
03.06.05 Bahrain-Japan
08.06.05 Iran-Bahrain
08.06.05 North Korea-Japan
17.08.05 Bahrain-North Korea
17.08.05 Japan-Iran

*Group winners and runners-up qualify for finals. The two third-placed teams meet in a two-leg play-off, the winners of which meet the fourth-placed CONCACAF team over two legs for a place in finals*

*Asian play-off matchdays:*
*Sep 3 (1st leg), Oct 8 (2nd leg), 2005*

### CONCACAF

**3.5 finals berths**

#### 3rd stage

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| United States | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Guatemala | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Costa Rica | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Panama | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Trinidad & Tob | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 1 |

09.02.05 Costa Rica-Mexico ..... 1-2
09.02.05 Panama-Guatemala ..... 0-0
09.02.05 Trinidad & Tob-United States ..... 1-2
26.03.05 Costa Rica-Panama ..... 2-1
26.03.05 Guatemala-Trinidad & Tob ..... 5-1
27.03.05 Mexico-United States ..... 2-1
30.03.05 Panama-Mexico ..... 1-1
30.03.05 Trinidad & Tob-Costa Rica ..... 0-0
30.03.05 United States-Guatemala ..... 2-0
04.06.05 Guatemala-Mexico
04.06.05 Trinidad & Tob-Panama
04.06.05 United States-Costa Rica
08.06.05 Costa Rica-Guatemala
08.06.05 Mexico-Trinidad & Tob
08.06.05 Panama-United States
17.08.05 Guatemala-Panama
17.08.05 Mexico-Costa Rica
17.08.05 United States-Trinidad & Tob
03.09.05 Panama-Costa Rica
03.09.05 Trinidad & Tob-Guatemala
03.09.05 United States-Mexico
07.09.05 Costa Rica-Trinidad & Tob
07.09.05 Guatemala-United States
07.09.05 Mexico-Panama
08.10.05 Costa Rica-United States
08.10.05 Mexico-Guatemala
08.10.05 Panama-Trinidad & Tob
12.10.05 Guatemala-Costa Rica
12.10.05 Trinidad & Tob-Mexico
12.10.05 United States-Panama

*Top three qualify for finals. The fourth-placed team meet the winners of the Asian play-off over two legs for a place in finals*

### EUROPE

**14 finals berths (including hosts Germany, who qualify automatically)**

**Group 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holland | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 3 | 16 |
| Czech Republic | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 15 |
| Romania | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 13 |
| Finland | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 9 |
| Macedonia | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| Armenia | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 4 |
| Andorra | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 4 |

18.08.04 Macedonia-Armenia ..... 3-0
18.08.04 Romania-Finland ..... 2-1
04.09.04 Finland-Andorra ..... 3-0
04.09.04 Romania-Macedonia ..... 2-1
08.09.04 Andorra-Romania ..... 1-5
08.09.04 Armenia-Finland ..... 0-2
08.09.04 Holland-Czech Republic ..... 2-0
09.10.04 Czech Republic-Romania ..... 1-0
09.10.04 Finland-Armenia ..... 3-1

09.10.04 Macedonia-Holland 2-2
13.10.04 Andorra-Macedonia 1-0
13.10.04 Armenia-Czech Republic 0-3
13.10.04 Holland-Finland 3-1
17.11.04 Andorra-Holland 0-3
17.11.04 Armenia-Romania 1-1
17.11.04 Macedonia-Czech Republic 0-2
09.02.05 Macedonia-Andorra 0-0
26.03.05 Armenia-Andorra 2-1
26.03.05 Czech Republic-Finland 4-3
26.03.05 Romania-Holland 0-2
30.03.05 Andorra-Czech Republic 0-4
30.03.05 Holland-Armenia 2-0
30.03.05 Macedonia-Romania 1-2
04.06.05 Armenia-Macedonia
04.06.05 Czech Republic-Andorra
04.06.05 Holland-Romania
08.06.05 Czech Republic-Macedonia
08.06.05 Finland-Holland
08.06.05 Romania-Armenia
17.08.05 Macedonia-Finland
17.08.05 Romania-Andorra
03.09.05 Andorra-Finland
03.09.05 Armenia-Holland
03.09.05 Romania-Czech Republic
07.09.05 Czech Republic-Armenia
07.09.05 Finland-Macedonia
07.09.05 Holland-Andorra
08.10.05 Czech Republic-Holland
08.10.05 Finland-Romania
12.10.05 Andorra-Armenia
12.10.05 Finland-Czech Republic
12.10.05 Holland-Macedonia

**Group 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ukraine | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 17 |
| Greece | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 6 | 14 |
| Turkey | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 12 |
| Denmark | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| Albania | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 6 |
| Georgia | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 5 |
| Kazakhstan | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 0 |

04.09.04 Albania-Greece 2-1
04.09.04 Denmark-Ukraine 1-1
04.09.04 Turkey-Georgia 1-1
08.09.04 Georgia-Albania 2-0
08.09.04 Greece-Turkey 0-0
08.09.04 Kazakhstan-Ukraine 1-2
09.10.04 Albania-Denmark 0-2
09.10.04 Turkey-Kazakhstan 4-0
09.10.04 Ukraine-Greece 1-1
13.10.04 Denmark-Turkey 1-1
13.10.04 Kazakhstan-Albania 0-1
13.10.04 Ukraine-Georgia 2-0
17.11.04 Georgia-Denmark 2-2
17.11.04 Greece-Kazakhstan 3-1
17.11.04 Turkey-Ukraine 0-3
09.02.05 Albania-Ukraine 0-2
09.02.05 Greece-Denmark 2-1
26.03.05 Denmark-Kazakhstan 3-0
26.03.05 Georgia-Greece 1-3
26.03.05 Turkey-Albania 2-0
30.03.05 Georgia-Turkey 2-5
30.03.05 Greece-Albania 2-0
30.03.05 Ukraine-Denmark 1-0
04.06.05 Albania-Georgia
04.06.05 Turkey-Greece
04.06.05 Ukraine-Kazakhstan
08.06.05 Denmark-Albania
08.06.05 Greece-Ukraine
08.06.05 Kazakhstan-Turkey
17.08.05 Kazakhstan-Georgia
03.09.05 Albania-Kazakhstan
03.09.05 Georgia-Ukraine
03.09.05 Turkey-Denmark
07.09.05 Denmark-Georgia
07.09.05 Kazakhstan-Greece
07.09.05 Ukraine-Turkey
08.10.05 Denmark-Greece
08.10.05 Georgia-Kazakhstan
08.10.05 Ukraine-Albania
12.10.05 Albania-Turkey
12.10.05 Greece-Georgia
12.10.05 Kazakhstan-Denmark

**Group 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portugal | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 21 | 4 | 14 |
| Slovakia | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 5 | 14 |
| Russia | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 10 | 11 |
| Latvia | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 10 |
| Estonia | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 8 |
| Liechtenstein | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 4 |
| Luxembourg | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 28 | 0 |

18.08.04 Liechtenstein-Estonia 1-2
18.08.04 Slovakia-Luxembourg 3-1
04.09.04 Estonia-Luxembourg 4-0
04.09.04 Latvia-Portugal 0-2
04.09.04 Russia-Slovakia 1-1
08.09.04 Luxembourg-Latvia 3-4
08.09.04 Portugal-Estonia 4-0
08.09.04 Slovakia-Liechtenstein 7-0
09.10.04 Liechtenstein-Portugal 2-2
09.10.04 Luxembourg-Russia 0-4
09.10.04 Slovakia-Latvia 4-1
13.10.04 Latvia-Estonia 2-2
13.10.04 Luxembourg-Liechtenstein 0-4
13.10.04 Portugal-Russia 7-1
17.11.04 Liechtenstein-Latvia 1-3
17.11.04 Luxembourg-Portugal 0-5
17.11.04 Russia-Estonia 4-0
26.03.05 Estonia-Slovakia 1-2
26.03.05 Liechtenstein-Russia 1-2
30.03.05 Estonia-Russia 1-1
30.03.05 Latvia-Luxembourg 4-0
30.03.05 Slovakia-Portugal 1-1
04.06.05 Estonia-Liechtenstein
04.06.05 Portugal-Slovakia
04.06.05 Russia-Latvia
08.06.05 Estonia-Portugal
08.06.05 Latvia-Liechtenstein
08.06.05 Luxembourg-Slovakia
17.08.05 Latvia-Russia
17.08.05 Liechtenstein-Slovakia
03.09.05 Estonia-Latvia
03.09.05 Portugal-Luxembourg
03.09.05 Russia-Liechtenstein
07.09.05 Latvia-Slovakia
07.09.05 Liechtenstein-Luxembourg
07.09.05 Russia-Portugal
08.10.05 Portugal-Liechtenstein
08.10.05 Russia-Luxembourg
08.10.05 Slovakia-Estonia
12.10.05 Luxembourg-Estonia
12.10.05 Portugal-Latvia
12.10.05 Slovakia-Russia

**Group 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| France | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| Israel | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 10 |
| Switzerland | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 9 |
| Rep Ireland | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Cyprus | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 1 |
| Faroe Islands | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 1 |

04.09.04 France-Israel 0-0
04.09.04 Rep Ireland-Cyprus 3-0
04.09.04 Switzerland-Faroe Islands 6-0
08.09.04 Faroe Islands-France 0-2
08.09.04 Israel-Cyprus 2-1
08.09.04 Switzerland-Rep Ireland 1-1
09.10.04 Cyprus-Faroe Islands 2-2
09.10.04 France-Rep Ireland 0-0
09.10.04 Israel-Switzerland 2-2
13.10.04 Cyprus-France 0-2
13.10.04 Rep Ireland-Faroe Islands 2-0
17.11.04 Cyprus-Israel 1-2
26.03.05 France-Switzerland 0-0
26.03.05 Israel-Rep Ireland 1-1
30.03.05 Israel-France 1-1
30.03.05 Switzerland-Cyprus 1-0
04.06.05 Faroe Islands-Switzerland
04.06.05 Rep Ireland-Israel
08.06.05 Faroe Islands-Rep Ireland
17.08.05 Faroe Islands-Cyprus
03.09.05 France-Faroe Islands
03.09.05 Switzerland-Israel
07.09.05 Cyprus-Switzerland
07.09.05 Faroe Islands-Israel
07.09.05 Rep Ireland-France
08.10.05 Cyprus-Rep Ireland
08.10.05 Switzerland-France
08.10.05 Israel-Faroe Islands
12.10.05 France-Cyprus
12.10.05 Rep Ireland-Switzerland

**Group 5**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Italy | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 12 |
| Norway | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| Slovenia | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Belarus | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| Scotland | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Moldova | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 2 |

04.09.04 Italy-Norway 2-1
04.09.04 Slovenia-Moldova 3-0
08.09.04 Moldova-Italy 0-1
08.09.04 Norway-Belarus 1-1
08.09.04 Scotland-Slovenia 0-0
09.10.04 Belarus-Moldova 4-0
09.10.04 Scotland-Norway 0-1
09.10.04 Slovenia-Italy 1-0
13.10.04 Italy-Belarus 4-3
13.10.04 Moldova-Scotland 1-1
13.10.04 Norway-Slovenia 3-0
26.03.05 Italy-Scotland 2-0
30.03.05 Moldova-Norway 0-0
30.03.05 Slovenia-Belarus 1-1
04.06.05 Belarus-Slovenia
04.06.05 Norway-Italy
04.06.05 Scotland-Moldova
08.06.05 Belarus-Scotland
03.09.05 Moldova-Belarus
03.09.05 Scotland-Italy
03.09.05 Slovenia-Norway
07.09.05 Belarus-Italy
07.09.05 Moldova-Slovenia
07.09.05 Norway-Scotland
08.10.05 Italy-Slovenia
08.10.05 Norway-Moldova
08.10.05 Scotland-Belarus
12.10.05 Belarus-Norway
12.10.05 Italy-Moldova
12.10.05 Slovenia-Scotland

**Group 6**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| Poland | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 5 | 15 |
| Austria | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 11 |
| N Ireland | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 3 |
| Wales | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 2 |
| Azerbaijan | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 2 |

04.09.04 Austria-England 2-2
04.09.04 Azerbaijan-Wales 1-1
04.09.04 Northern Ireland-Poland 0-3
08.09.04 Austria-Azerbaijan 2-0
08.09.04 Poland-England 1-2
08.09.04 Wales-Northern Ireland 2-2
09.10.04 Austria-Poland 1-3
09.10.04 Azerbaijan-Northern Ireland 0-0
09.10.04 England-Wales 2-0
13.10.04 Azerbaijan-England 0-1
13.10.04 Northern Ireland-Austria 3-3
13.10.04 Wales-Poland 2-3
26.03.05 England-Northern Ireland 4-0
26.03.05 Poland-Azerbaijan 8-0
26.03.05 Wales-Austria 0-2
30.03.05 Austria-Wales 1-0
30.03.05 England-Azerbaijan 2-0
30.03.05 Poland-Northern Ireland 1-0
04.06.05 Azerbaijan-Poland
03.09.05 Northern Ireland-Azerbaijan
03.09.05 Poland-Austria
03.09.05 Wales-England
07.09.05 Azerbaijan-Austria
07.09.05 Northern Ireland-England
07.09.05 Poland-Wales
08.10.05 England-Austria
08.10.05 Northern Ireland-Wales
12.10.05 Austria-Northern Ireland
12.10.05 England-Poland
12.10.05 Wales-Azerbaijan

**Group 7**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Serbia & M'gro | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 11 |
| Spain | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Lithuania | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Belgium | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Bosnia-Herz | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| San Marino | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 20 | 0 |

04.09.04 Belgium-Lithuania 1-1
04.09.04 San Marino-Serbia & M'negro 0-3
08.09.04 Bosnia-Herz-Spain 1-1
08.09.04 Lithuania-San Marino 4-0
09.10.04 Bosnia-Herz-Serbia & M'negro 0-0
09.10.04 Spain-Belgium 2-0
13.10.04 Lithuania-Spain 0-0
13.10.04 Serbia & M'negro-San Marino 5-0
17.11.04 Belgium-Serbia & M'negro 0-2
17.11.04 San Marino-Lithuania 0-1
09.02.05 Spain-San Marino 5-0
26.03.05 Belgium-Bosnia-Herz 4-1
30.03.05 Bosnia-Herz-Lithuania 1-1
30.03.05 San Marino-Belgium 1-2
30.03.05 Serbia & M'negro-Spain 0-0
04.06.05 San Marino-Bosnia-Herz
04.06.05 Serbia & M'negro-Belgium
04.06.05 Spain-Lithuania
08.06.05 Spain-Bosnia-Herz
03.09.05 Bosnia-Herz-Belgium
03.09.05 Serbia & M'negro-Lithuania
07.09.05 Belgium-San Marino
07.09.05 Lithuania-Bosnia-Herz
07.09.05 Spain-Serbia & M'negro
08.10.05 Belgium-Spain
08.10.05 Bosnia-Herz-San Marino
08.10.05 Lithuania-Serbia & M'negro
12.10.05 Lithuania-Belgium
12.10.05 San Marino-Spain
12.10.05 Serbia & M'negro-Bosnia-Herz

**Group 8**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Croatia | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 13 |
| Sweden | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 2 | 12 |
| Bulgaria | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| Hungary | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Iceland | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 1 |
| Malta | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 1 |

04.09.04 Croatia-Hungary 3-0
04.09.04 Iceland-Bulgaria 1-3
04.09.04 Malta-Sweden 0-7
08.09.04 Hungary-Iceland 3-2
08.09.04 Sweden-Croatia 0-1
09.10.04 Croatia-Bulgaria 2-2
09.10.04 Malta-Iceland 0-0
09.10.04 Sweden-Hungary 3-0
13.10.04 Bulgaria-Malta 4-1
13.10.04 Iceland-Sweden 1-4
17.11.04 Malta-Hungary 0-2
26.03.05 Bulgaria-Sweden 0-3
26.03.05 Croatia-Iceland 4-0
30.03.05 Croatia-Malta 3-0
30.03.05 Hungary-Bulgaria 1-1
04.06.05 Bulgaria-Croatia
04.06.05 Iceland-Hungary
04.06.05 Sweden-Malta
08.06.05 Iceland-Malta
03.09.05 Hungary-Malta
03.09.05 Iceland-Croatia
03.09.05 Sweden-Bulgaria
07.09.05 Bulgaria-Iceland
07.09.05 Hungary-Sweden
07.09.05 Malta-Croatia
08.10.05 Bulgaria-Hungary
08.10.05 Croatia-Sweden
12.10.05 Hungary-Croatia
12.10.05 Malta-Bulgaria
12.10.05 Sweden-Iceland

*Group winners and the two best runners-up* qualify for finals. The other six runners-up are paired in three two-leg play-off matches, the winners of which also qualify for finals*
**Group runners-up will be ranked according to their results against the teams finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in their respective groups*

*European play-off matchdays:*
*Nov 12 (1st leg), Nov 16 (2nd leg), 2005*

## OCEANIA

**0.5 finals berths**

### 3rd stage

03.09.05 Solomon Islands-Australia
06.09.05 Australia-Solomon Islands

*Winners meet the fifth-placed South American team over two legs for a place in finals*

## SOUTH AMERICA

**4.5 finals berths**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina | 13 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 24 | 12 | 28 |
| Brazil | 13 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 21 | 12 | 24 |
| Ecuador | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 15 | 20 |
| Paraguay | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 17 | 19 |
| Uruguay | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 25 | 16 |
| Chile | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 14 |
| Colombia | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Venezuela | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 20 | 14 |
| Peru | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 16 | 14 |
| Bolivia | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 13 |

06.09.03 Argentina-Chile 2-2
06.09.03 Ecuador-Venezuela 2-0
06.09.03 Peru-Paraguay 4-1
07.09.03 Colombia-Brazil 1-2
07.09.03 Uruguay-Bolivia 5-0
09.09.03 Chile-Peru 2-1
09.09.03 Venezuela-Argentina 0-3
10.09.03 Bolivia-Colombia 4-0
10.09.03 Brazil-Ecuador 1-0

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10.09.03 | Paraguay-Uruguay | 4-1 |
| 15.11.03 | Argentina-Bolivia | 3-0 |
| 15.11.03 | Colombia-Venezuela | 0-1 |
| 15.11.03 | Paraguay-Ecuador | 2-1 |
| 15.11.03 | Uruguay-Chile | 2-1 |
| 16.11.03 | Peru-Brazil | 1-1 |
| 18.11.03 | Chile-Paraguay | 0-1 |
| 18.11.03 | Venezuela-Bolivia | 2-1 |
| 19.11.03 | Brazil-Uruguay | 3-3 |
| 19.11.03 | Colombia-Argentina | 1-1 |
| 19.11.03 | Ecuador-Peru | 0-0 |
| 30.03.04 | Argentina-Ecuador | 1-0 |
| 30.03.04 | Bolivia-Chile | 0-2 |
| 31.03.04 | Paraguay-Brazil | 0-0 |
| 31.03.04 | Peru-Colombia | 0-2 |
| 31.03.04 | Uruguay-Venezuela | 0-3 |
| 01.06.04 | Bolivia-Paraguay | 2-1 |
| 01.06.04 | Uruguay-Peru | 1-3 |
| 01.06.04 | Venezuela-Chile | 0-1 |
| 02.06.04 | Brazil-Argentina | 3-1 |
| 02.06.04 | Ecuador-Colombia | 2-1 |
| 05.06.04 | Ecuador-Bolivia | 3-2 |
| 06.06.04 | Argentina-Paraguay | 0-0 |
| 06.06.04 | Chile-Brazil | 1-1 |
| 06.06.04 | Colombia-Uruguay | 5-0 |
| 06.06.04 | Peru-Venezuela | 0-0 |
| 04.09.04 | Peru-Argentina | 1-3 |
| 05.09.04 | Brazil-Bolivia | 3-1 |
| 05.09.04 | Chile-Colombia | 0-0 |
| 05.09.04 | Paraguay-Venezuela | 1-0 |
| 05.09.04 | Uruguay-Ecuador | 1-0 |
| 09.10.04 | Argentina-Uruguay | 4-2 |
| 09.10.04 | Bolivia-Peru | 1-0 |
| 09.10.04 | Colombia-Paraguay | 1-1 |
| 09.10.04 | Venezuela-Brazil | 2-5 |
| 10.10.04 | Ecuador-Chile | 2-0 |
| 12.10.04 | Bolivia-Uruguay | 0-0 |
| 13.10.04 | Brazil-Colombia | 0-0 |
| 13.10.04 | Chile-Argentina | 0-0 |
| 13.10.04 | Paraguay-Peru | 1-1 |
| 14.10.04 | Venezuela-Ecuador | 3-1 |
| 17.11.04 | Argentina-Venezuela | 3-2 |
| 17.11.04 | Colombia-Bolivia | 1-0 |
| 17.11.04 | Ecuador-Brazil | 1-0 |
| 17.11.04 | Peru-Chile | 2-1 |
| 17.11.04 | Uruguay-Paraguay | 1-0 |
| 26.03.05 | Bolivia-Argentina | 1-2 |
| 26.03.05 | Chile-Uruguay | 1-1 |
| 26.03.05 | Venezuela-Colombia | 0-0 |
| 27.03.05 | Brazil-Peru | 1-0 |
| 27.03.05 | Ecuador-Paraguay | 5-2 |
| 29.03.05 | Bolivia-Venezuela | 3-1 |
| 30.03.05 | Argentina-Colombia | 1-0 |
| 30.03.05 | Paraguay-Chile | 2-1 |
| 30.03.05 | Peru-Ecuador | 2-2 |
| 30.03.05 | Uruguay-Brazil | 1-1 |
| 04.06.05 | Brazil-Paraguay | |
| 04.06.05 | Chile-Bolivia | |
| 04.06.05 | Colombia-Peru | |
| 04.06.05 | Ecuador-Argentina | |
| 04.06.05 | Venezuela-Uruguay | |
| 07.06.05 | Chile-Venezuela | |
| 07.06.05 | Colombia-Ecuador | |
| 07.06.05 | Paraguay-Bolivia | |
| 07.06.05 | Peru-Uruguay | |
| 08.06.05 | Argentina-Brazil | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Bolivia-Ecuador | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Brazil-Chile | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Paraguay-Argentina | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Uruguay-Colombia | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Venezuela-Peru | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Argentina-Peru | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Bolivia-Brazil | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Colombia-Chile | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Ecuador-Uruguay | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Venezuela-Paraguay | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Brazil-Venezuela | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Chile-Ecuador | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Paraguay-Colombia | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Peru-Bolivia | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Uruguay-Argentina | |

*Top four qualify for finals; fifth-placed team meet the Oceania section winners over two legs for a place in finals*

# INTERNATIONALS

**Wednesday, April 20**

*Apr 20 - Tallinn - friendly*
**Estonia 1** (Saharov 81)
**Norway 2** (F Johnsen 24, Braaten 54)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Vink (Hol)
**Estonia:** Kotenko - Saviauk (Shishov 72), Rahn, Barengrub, U Rooba, Kristal (Klavan 28), Reim, Smirnov (Saharov 71), Zahhovaiko (Teever 60), Kruglov, Viikmae (Neemelo 83).
**Norway:** E Johnsen - Bergdolmo, Riseth, Andersen (Storbaek 81), Stensaas, Hangeland (Rudi 64), Solli, Braaten, F Johnsen, Kvisvik, Arst.

*Apr 20 - Atlanta, USA - friendly*
**Jamaica 1** (Shelton 14)
**Guatemala 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Prus (USA)
**Jamaica:** S Sawyers - Stewart, Taylor (A Reid 84), Breakenridge, Scarlett (G Reid 73), Hue (Priestly 70), Shelton (Findlayson 88), Daley (Palmer 64), Deerr (Dean 65), T Sawyers, Stephenson.
**Guatemala:** Klee - Melgar, Martinez, G Cabrera (M Gonzalez 60), Sanabria, Thompson, Romero, Rodriguez (Davila 46), Figueroa (Castillo 60), Pezzarossi (Sandoval 60), Plata (Diaz 78).

**Wednesday, April 27**

*Apr 27 - Sao Paulo - friendly*
**Brazil 3** (Anderson 4, Romario 16, Grafite 65)
**Guatemala 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 36,235. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)
**Brazil:** Marcos (Rogerio Ceni 46) - Cicinho (Gabriel 65), Anderson, Fabiano Eller (Glauber 80), Leo, Mineiro, Magrao (Marcinho 35), Ricardinho, Carlos Alberto (Fernandao 46), Robinho (Fred 46), Romario (Grafite 38).
**Guatemala:** Klee (Motta 70) - Martinez, Melgar (M Gonzalez 70), Cabrera, Chen (Gomez 46), Thompson (Figueroa 60), Giron (Morales 46), Romero, Sanabria (Davila 60), Castillo (Aragon 70), Sandoval.

*Apr 27 - Chicago - friendly*
**Mexico 1** (R Morales 51)
**Poland 1** (Brozek 71)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 54,427. **Ref:** Kennedy (USA)
**Mexico:** Corona - R Medina (Mendez 78), F Rodriguez, Osorio, Pineda, Juan P Rodriguez, R Morales (Galindo 73), Zepeda (Naelson 46), L Perez, Fonseca (Peralta 75), Bravo (A Medina 46).
**Poland:** Boruc - Baszczynski, Klos, Glowacki, Dudka, Zajac (Burkhardt 43), Sobolewski (Bieniuk 89), Kazmierczak (Golos 46), Kielbowicz, Brozek (Giza 84), Slusarski (Rachwal 76).

**Wednesday, May 4**

*May 4 - East Rutherford, USA - friendly*
**Ecuador 1** (Mendez 51)
**Paraguay 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 26,491
**Ecuador:** Villafuerte - Reasco, Guagua, G Espinoza, Ambrossi (Cortez 85), Mendez, M Ayovi, Quiroz, Valencia, O Tenorio, Baldeon.
**Paraguay:** Gomez - Balbuena, Manzur, Devaca, Juan Cardozo, Torres (Romero 82), Riveros (Irala 88), A Ortiz (E Gonzalez 79), Bonet, Ramirez, Santa Cruz (C A Gonzalez 73).

## COSAFA CUP

**Group A**
*Winners: South Africa*

**Group B**
*In Windhoek, Namibia*

### Semi-finals

*Apr 16*
**Mozambique 0**
**Zimbabwe 3** (Chimedza pen 66, 78, Sandaka 82)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Mufeti (Nam)
**Mozambique:** Rodrigo - Caito (Domingues 69), Kito, Fred, Mano, Paulito (Hagi 58), Danito (Nelinho 53), Mauricio, Cantona, Chana, To.
**Zimbabwe:** Murambadoro - Dick, Sengu (Mwanjili 87), Chimedza, J Matola, Kurauzvione, Gombani, Lunga, Matawu, Sandaka (Undi 82), Tsipa (Badza 62).

*Apr 16*
**Namibia 1** (Botes 35)
**Botswana 1** (Moatlhaping 90)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Sentso (Les)
*Botswana 2-1 on pens*
**Namibia:** Mbaha - R Gariseb, Geingob, Keiter (Tjeenao 8), Katjiteo, Toromba, Gurirab, Plaatjies (C Aoseb 75), R Aoseb, Seibeb (Louw 89), Botes.
**Botswana:** Marumo (Tshelametsi 44) - Letsholathebe, Thuma, Amos, Mogaladi, Gabonamong, Gabolwelwe (Moloi 46), Moatlhaping, Pharo (Mogorosi 80), Motlhabankwe, Molwantwa.

### Final

*Apr 17*
**Botswana 0**
**Zimbabwe 2** (Badza 21, Sandaka 58)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Mavunza (Ang)
**Botswana:** Tshelametsi - Letsholathebe, Thuma, Amos, Mogaladi, Gabonamong, Moatlhaping, Pharo (Moloi 48), Kgopolelo (Radipotsane 48), Motlhabankwe, Molwantwa (Mogorosi 79).
**Zimbabwe:** Murambadoro (Kapini 40) - Dick, Mwanjili, Chimedza, J Matola, Kurauzvione (Moyo 89), Gombani, Lunga, Matawu, Sandaka, Badza.

**Group C**
*In Lusaka, Zambia*
**June 11:** Semi-final - Lesotho v Malawi.
**June 11:** Semi-final - Zambia v Swaziland.
**June 12:** Final.

*Group winners qualify for the final group, to be held in August, along with holders Angola*

# EUROPE

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

**April 12**

**Bayern Munich (Ger) 3** (Pizarro 65, Guerrero 90, Scholl 90)
**Chelsea (Eng) 2** (Lampard 30, Drogba 80)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 59,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
*Chelsea 6-5 on agg*
**Bayern:** Kahn - Sagnol, Lucio, Kovac, Lizarazu (Salihamidzic 77), Demichelis (Scholl 52), Schweinsteiger, Ze Roberto, Ballack, Makaay (Guerrero 73), Pizarro.
**Chelsea:** Cech - Huth, Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, Gallas, Makelele, Gudjohnsen (Geremi 88), Lampard, J Cole (Nuno Morais 90), Duff (Tiago 72), Drogba.

**Internazionale (Ita) 0**
**Milan (Ita) 1** (Shevchenko 30)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 82,734. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
*Match abandoned after 74mins because of crowd trouble; awarded 3-0 to Milan*
*Milan 5-0 on agg*
**Inter:** Toldo - J Zanetti, Cordoba, Materazzi, Favalli, C Zanetti (Mihajlovic 46), Cambiasso, Van der Meyde, Veron, Kily Gonzalez (Cruz 46), Adriano (Martins 51).
**Milan:** Dida (Abbiati 74) - Cafu, Nesta, Stam, Maldini, Ambrosini, Pirlo, Seedorf, Kaka, Crespo (Rui Costa 69), Shevchenko.

**April 13**

**Juventus (Ita) 0**
**Liverpool (Eng) 0**
**Att:** 55,464. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
*Liverpool 2-1 on agg*
**Juventus:** Buffon - Thuram, Montero (Pessotto 80), Cannavaro, Zambrotta, Camoranesi (Appiah 82), Emerson, Olivera (Zalayeta 46), Nedved, Del Piero, Ibrahimovic.
**Liverpool:** Dudek - Finnan, Carragher, Hyypia, Traore, Nunez (Smicer 57), Xabi Alonso, Biscan, Riise, Luis Garcia (Le Tallec 84), Baros (Cisse 73).

**PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1** (Alex 50)
**Lyon (Fra) 1** (Wiltord 10)
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 35,000.
**Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
*Agg 2-2. PSV 4-2 on pens*
**PSV:** Gomes - Ooijer, Alex, Bouma, Lee, Van Bommel, Vogel, Cocu, Park, Vennegoor of Hesselink (Beasley 57), Farfan (Robert 85).
**Lyon:** Coupet - Reveillere, Cacapa, Cris, Abidal, Govou (Ben Arfa 88), Diarra, Essien, Juninho, Malouda, Wiltord (Nilmar 95).

### Semi-finals, 1st legs

**April 26**

**Milan 2** (Shevchenko 42, Tomasson 90)
**PSV Eindhoven 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 74,655. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
**Milan:** Dida - Cafu, Stam, Maldini, Kaladze, Gattuso, Pirlo (Ambrosini 72), Seedorf (Serginho 80), Kaka, Crespo (Tomasson 64), Shevchenko.
**PSV:** Gomes - Ooijer, Alex, Bouma (Lucius 46), Vogel, Van Bommel, Cocu, Lee, Beasley (Vennegoor of Hesselink 61), Farfan, Park.

**April 27**

**Chelsea 0**
**Liverpool 0**
**Att:** 40,497. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
**Chelsea:** Cech - Johnson, Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, Gallas, Makelele, Tiago (Robben 58), Lampard, J Cole (Kezman 77), Gudjohnsen, Drogba.
**Liverpool:** Dudek - Finnan, Carragher, Hyypia, Traore, Xabi Alonso, Biscan (Kewell 86), Luis Garcia (Smicer 90), Gerrard, Riise, Baros (Cisse 64).

### Semi-finals, 2nd legs

**May 3**

**Liverpool 1** (Luis Garcia 4)
**Chelsea 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 42,529. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
*Liverpool 1-0 on agg*
**Liverpool:** Dudek - Finnan, Carragher, Hyypia, Traore, Biscan, Hamann (Kewell 72), Luis Garcia (Nunez 83), Gerrard, Riise, Baros (Cisse 59).
**Chelsea:** Cech - Geremi (Huth 75), Ricardo Carvalho, Terry, Gallas, Tiago (Kezman 68), Makelele, Lampard, J Cole (Robben 68), Drogba, Gudjohnsen.

**May 4**

**PSV Eindhoven 3** (Park 9, Cocu 65, 90)
**Milan 1** (Ambrosini 90)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
*Agg 3-3. Milan on away goals*
**PSV:** Gomes - Lucius, Alex, Bouma (Robert 70), Van Bommel, Vogel, Farfan, Cocu, Park, Lee, Vennegoor of Hesselink.
**Milan:** Dida - Cafu, Nesta, Stam, Maldini (Kaladze 46), Gattuso, Pirlo, Ambrosini, Kaka, Seedorf (Tomasson 68), Shevchenko.

### Final

*May 25 - Olympic stadium, Istanbul*

## UEFA CUP

### Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

**April 14**

**Auxerre (Fra) 2** (Lachuer 9, Kalou pen 78)
**CSKA Moscow (Rus) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
*CSKA 4-2 on agg*

**AZ Alkmaar (Hol) 1** (Perez 8)
**Villarreal (Spa) 1** (Figueroa 72)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Rosetti (Ita)
*Sent off: Opdam (AZ) 21min; Jose Mari (Villarreal) 21min*
*AZ 3-2 on agg*

**Parma (Ita) 0**
**Austria Wien (Aut) 0**
**Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
*Agg 1-1. Parma on away goals*

**Sporting Lisbon (Por) 4** (Niculae 40, Sa Pinto 71, Beto 76, Rochemback 90)
**Newcastle (Eng) 1** (Dyer 20)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)
*Sporting 4-2 on agg*

### Semi-finals, 1st legs

**April 28**

**Parma 0**
**CSKA Moscow 0**
**Att:** 7,298. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
**Parma:** Bucci - Cardone (Bonera 59), Cannavaro, Bovo, Furlan (Pisanu 67), Dessena, Savi, Vignaroli, Camara, Ruopolo, Sorrentino (Bolano 79).
**CSKA:** Akinfeev - V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Odiah, Semberas, Rahimic, Zhirkov, Krasic (Vagner Love 57), Daniel Carvalho, Olic (Laizans 84).

**Sporting Lisbon 2** (Douala 37, Pinilla 80)
**AZ Alkmaar 1** (Landzaat 36)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 34,776. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
**Sporting:** Ricardo - Rogerio (Pinilla 69),

Aerial combat...Parma's Mark Bresciano battles with Elvir Rahimic of CSKA Moscow during the UEFA Cup semi-final second leg

Enakarhire, Anderson Polga, Rui Jorge, Douala, Custodio, Rochemback (Hugo Viana 60), Pedro Barbosa (Joao Moutinho 46), Liedson, Sa Pinto.
**AZ:** Timmer - Jaliens, Vlaar, Buskermolen, De Cler, Ramzi, Landzaat, Van Galen (Sektioui 79), Lindenbergh, Nelisse (Huysegems 71), Perez.

## Semi-finals, 2nd legs

**May 5**

**CSKA Moscow 3** (Daniel Carvalho 10, 53, V Berezutsky 60)
**Parma 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
*CSKA 3-0 on agg*
**CSKA:** Akinfeev - V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Odiah, Aldonin, Rahimic, Zhirkov, Daniel Carvalho (Semberas 75), Olic (Krasic 58), Vagner Love (Salougin 88).
**Parma:** Bucci (Frey 20) - Cannavaro, Bonera, Bovo, Camara, Bresciano, Grella (Simplicio 59), Savi, Dessena, Furlan (Gilardino 49), Ruopolo. *Sent off: Bonera 90min.*

**AZ Alkmaar 3** (Perez 6, Huysegems 78, Jaliens 109)
**Sporting Lisbon 2** (Liedson 45, Miguel Garcia 120)
*Aet.* **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 2-1. **Att:** 8,500.
**Ref:** Larsen (Den)
*Agg 4-4. Sporting on away goals*
**AZ:** Timmer - Jaliens, Vlaar, Opdam, De Cler, Ramzi (Elkhattabi 64), Landzaat, Perez, Sektioui (Janga 120), Nelisse (Huysegems 74), Van Galen.
**Sporting:** Ricardo - Miguel Garcia, Beto, Anderson Polga, Rui Jorge (Niculae 110), Douala (Tello 76), Joao Moutinho, Rochemback (Pedro Barbosa 86), Custodio, Liedson, Sa Pinto.

## Final

*May 18 - Jose Alvalade stadium, Lisbon*

# AUSTRIA

**Apr 9:** Grazer AK 1 Salzburg 0; Rapid Wien 2 Mattersburg 1; Bregenz 1 Pasching 1; Admira 1 Sturm Graz 1.
**Apr 10:** Wacker Tirol 0 Austria Wien 3.
**Apr 16:** Admira 1 Wacker Tirol 0; Mattersburg 2 Salzburg 0; Sturm Graz 1 Rapid Wien 1; Pasching 0 Grazer AK 3.
**Apr 17:** Austria Wien 1 Bregenz 1.
**Apr 23:** Grazer AK 5 Mattersburg 1; Bregenz 0 Admira 1; Salzburg 0 Austria Wien 1; Wacker Tirol 2 Sturm Graz 0.
**Apr 24:** Rapid Wien 2 Pasching 1.
**Apr 29:** Wacker Tirol 1 Rapid Wien 2.
**Apr 30:** Austria Wien 0 Mattersburg 0; Admira 1 Grazer AK 4; Sturm Graz 2 Bregenz 0; Pasching 1 Salzburg 1.
**May 4:** Rapid Wien 5 Salzburg 0.

**AUSTRIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rapid Wien | 30 | 18 | 8 | 4 | 54 | 22 | 62 |
| Austria Wien | 29 | 16 | 9 | 4 | 51 | 17 | 57 |
| Grazer AK | 30 | 17 | 5 | 8 | 48 | 25 | 56 |
| Pasching | 30 | 17 | 5 | 8 | 49 | 37 | 56 |
| Mattersburg | 31 | 11 | 7 | 13 | 42 | 50 | 40 |
| Wacker Tirol | 31 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 41 | 44 | 36 |
| Admira | 30 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 33 | 48 | 36 |
| Sturm Graz | 31 | 8 | 8 | 15 | 28 | 42 | 32 |
| Salzburg | 31 | 6 | 7 | 18 | 29 | 48 | 25 |
| Bregenz | 31 | 4 | 8 | 19 | 26 | 68 | 20 |

# BELGIUM

**Friday, April 8**
**St Truiden 0**
**Genk 2** (Matoukou 15, Stojanovic 47) Att: 11,000

**Saturday, April 9**
**Anderlecht 2** (Wilhelmsson 29, Jestrovic pen 68)
**Lokeren 0** Att: 23,572

**Gent 1** (Viane og 48)
**Cercle Brugge 2** (Dekelver 13, Pivaljevic 62) Att: 7,500

**Germinal Beerschot 1** (Snoeckx 12)
**Westerlo 0** Att: 6,500

**Lierse 0**
**Mouscron 1** (Siljak 83) Att: 7,000

**Mons 4** (Gousse 12, Milas 30, Datti 44, 49)
**La Louviere 1** (Clamy 36) Att: 4,000

**Ostende 1** (Van Rumst 68)
**Charleroi 2** (Akgul 19, 49) Att: 3,500

**Sunday, April 10**
**Beveren 0**
**FC Brussels 1** (De Camargo 55) Att: 3,000

**Club Brugge 1** (Verheyen 38)
**Standard 1** (Sergio Conceicao 15) Att: 27,341

**Friday, April 15**
**Westerlo 1** (Coelho 4)
**Club Brugge 3** (Clement 14, Lange 59, 79) Att: 8,500

**Saturday, April 16**
**FC Brussels 1** (De Camargo 6)
**Gent 1** (De Beule 35) Att: 5,000

**Charleroi 1** (Kraouche 30)
**Lierse 0** Att: 9,104

**Genk 2** (Engelaar 4, Stojanovic 82)
**Beveren 1** (Sanogo 66) Att: 23,596

**Lokeren 4** (Gretarsson 11, Tailson 44, 45, 76)
**St Truiden 3** (Van Imschoot 3, Buvens 60, Hayen 64) Att: 5,700

**Mouscron 0**
**Germinal Beerschot 1** (Cavens 27) Att: 5,697

**Sunday, April 17**
**Cercle Brugge 2** (Roiha pen 31, Dekelver 43)
**Ostende 0** Att: 4,900

**La Louviere 1** (Eloi pen 19)
**Anderlecht 1** (Dindane 31) Att: 7,417

**Standard 2** (Leonard 32, Onyewu 82)
**Mons 0** Att: 15,000

**Friday, April 22**
**Anderlecht 3** (Kompany 20, Dindane 74, Tihinen 90)
**Standard 2** (Geraerts 30, 89) Att: 25,653

**Saturday, April 23**
**Beveren 0**
**Lokeren 2** (Chaves 17, Tailson 44) Att: 4,000

**Club Brugge 6** (Lange 23, Ceh 28, 48, Verheyen 34, 41, Simons 60)
**Germinal Beerschot 0** Att: 26,864

**Gent 0**
**Genk 1** (Vandenbergh 61) Att: 8,500

**Mons 3** (Vangeffelen og 33, Behi 64, Datti 80)
**Westerlo 2** (Utaka 43, 62) Att: 4,000

**Ostende 1** (Nijs 24)
**FC Brussels 0** Att: 3,800

**St Truiden 2** (Wisniowski 63, 90)
**La Louviere 1** (Montoya 7) Att: 7,000

**Sunday, April 24**
**Charleroi 2** (Orlando 9, Akgul 15)
**Mouscron 0** Att: 11,878

**Lierse 2** (Tohoua 47, Mitu pen 70)
**Cercle Brugge 0** Att: 6,307

**Friday, April 29**
**Westerlo 2** (Utaka 22, Brosque 23)
**Anderlecht 2** (Tihinen 19, Mpenza 82) Att: 8,500

**Saturday, April 30**
**FC Brussels 3** (Rilse 31, 56, De Camargo 85)
**Lierse 2** (Thompson 39, Wils 44) Att: 4,000

**Genk 2** (Beslija 61, Vandenbergh 84)
**Ostende 2** (Zoko 72, De Wilde 90) Att: 23,370

**Germinal Beerschot 2** (Snoeckx 10, Vos 90)
**Mons 0** Att: 6,000

**La Louviere 3** (Eloi 47, 65, 68)
**Beveren 0** Att: 4,000

**Lokeren 0**
**Gent 1** (Smoje 88) Att: 5,500

**Mouscron 0**
**Club Brugge 1** (Balaban 78) Att: 10,000

**Standard 4** (Roussel 25, 60, Bangoura 28, Wamberto 38)
**St Truiden 1** (Beda 76) Att: 27,000

**Sunday, May 1**
**Cercle Brugge 0**
**Charleroi 4** (Chabaud 8, 33, Akgul 55, Svetlicic og 79) Att: 5,000

**BELGIUM**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Club Brugge | 31 | 24 | 5 | 2 | 79 | 20 | 77 |
| Anderlecht | 31 | 21 | 6 | 4 | 68 | 31 | 69 |
| Standard | 31 | 19 | 6 | 6 | 57 | 27 | 63 |
| Charleroi | 31 | 18 | 7 | 6 | 44 | 29 | 61 |
| Genk | 31 | 18 | 7 | 6 | 49 | 35 | 61 |
| Gent | 31 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 43 | 32 | 53 |
| La Louviere | 31 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 40 | 34 | 41 |
| Lokeren | 31 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 33 | 34 | 41 |
| Westerlo | 31 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 33 | 51 | 38 |
| Cercle Brugge | 31 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 42 | 69 | 38 |
| Germinal B | 31 | 10 | 6 | 15 | 30 | 40 | 36 |
| Lierse | 31 | 10 | 5 | 16 | 47 | 55 | 35 |
| Beveren | 31 | 8 | 7 | 16 | 39 | 52 | 31 |
| Mouscron | 31 | 8 | 6 | 17 | 36 | 42 | 30 |
| St Truiden | 31 | 8 | 6 | 17 | 35 | 53 | 30 |
| FC Brussels | 31 | 8 | 3 | 20 | 28 | 56 | 27 |
| Ostende | 31 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 30 | 57 | 26 |
| Mons | 31 | 7 | 4 | 20 | 38 | 54 | 25 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
15 Sambegou Bangoura (Standard)
15 Rune Lange (Club Brugge)
14 Mohamed Aliyu Datti (Mons)
14 Nenad Jestrovic (Anderlecht)
14 Kevin Vandenbergh (Genk)

## BELGIAN CUP – qrt-finals, 2nd leg

**Apr 13:** Germinal Beerschot 3 Genk 1
*Germinal Beerschot 4-2 on agg.*

## Semi-finals, 1st legs

**Apr 20:** Club Brugge 1 Lierse 0; Lokeren 1 Germinal Beerschot 1.

# BULGARIA

**Apr 9:** Slavia 0 Marek 0; Levski 2 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 0 CSKA 1; Spartak Varna 0 Naftex 1.
**Apr 10:** Beroe 0 Nesebar 0; Lovech 2 Belasitsa 0; Vidima-Rakovski 2 Pirin 0; Cherno More 1 Rodopa 0.
**Apr 16:** Spartak Varna 0 Slavia 0; Pirin 1 Lovech 0.
**Apr 17:** Naftex 1 Beroe 0; Nesebar 0 Lokomotiv Sofia 4; CSKA 1 Cherno More 0; Rodopa 1 Levski 2; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Vidima-Rakovski 0; Belasitsa 0 Marek 0.
**Apr 22:** Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Naftex 0; Lovech 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1.
**Apr 23:** Slavia 4 Belasitsa 0; Marek 2 Pirin 1; Vidima-Rakovski 0 Rodopa 0; Cherno More 2 Nesebar 1; Beroe 1 Spartak Varna 0; Levski 0 CSKA 1.
**Apr 30:** Beroe 2 Slavia 0; Spartak Varna 0 Lokomotiv Sofia 5; Nesebar 2 Levski 3; Rodopa 0 Lovech 1; Pirin 1 Belasitsa 1; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3 Marek 0; CSKA 3 Vidima-Rakovski 0; Naftex 2 Cherno More 1.

**BULGARIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CSKA | 25 | 21 | 4 | 0 | 66 | 10 | 67 |
| Levski | 25 | 20 | 3 | 2 | 60 | 16 | 63 |
| Lok Plovdiv | 25 | 17 | 3 | 5 | 54 | 19 | 54 |
| Lovech | 25 | 14 | 3 | 8 | 39 | 24 | 45 |
| Slavia | 25 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 39 | 28 | 43 |
| Lok Sofia* | 25 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 39 | 32 | 36 |
| Cherno More | 25 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 27 | 32 | 31 |
| Beroe | 25 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 25 | 29 | 29 |
| Marek | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 23 | 34 | 26 |
| Naftex | 25 | 7 | 5 | 13 | 18 | 31 | 26 |
| Pirin | 25 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 19 | 31 | 25 |
| Belasitsa | 25 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 38 | 25 |
| Rodopa | 25 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 33 | 24 |
| Vidima-R'vski | 25 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 25 | 45 | 23 |
| Nesebar | 25 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 21 | 48 | 20 |
| Spartak Varna | 25 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 16 | 57 | 18 |

**3pts deducted for non-payment of wages*

# CROATIA

## Championship play-offs

**Apr 9:** Zagreb 3 Inter 3; Varteks 2 Slaven 0; Hajduk 1 Rijeka 1.
**Apr 16:** Rijeka 4 Zagreb 2; Slaven 1 Hajduk 1; Inter 2 Varteks 0.
**Apr 23:** Zagreb 3 Varteks 1; Hajduk 5 Inter 1; Rijeka 0 Slaven 0.
**Apr 30:** Slaven 2 Zagreb 0; Inter 3 Rijeka 2; Varteks 1 Hajduk 2.

**CROATIA – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hajduk | 27 | 15 | 5 | 7 | 48 | 28 | 50 |
| Inter | 27 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 35 | 32 | 45 |
| Rijeka | 27 | 11 | 11 | 5 | 45 | 30 | 44 |
| Slaven | 27 | 12 | 6 | 9 | 32 | 29 | 42 |
| Zagreb | 27 | 12 | 4 | 11 | 36 | 34 | 40 |
| Varteks | 27 | 12 | 2 | 13 | 44 | 38 | 38 |

# CZECH REPUBLIC

**Apr 9:** Ostrava 4 Olomouc 0; Slovacko 2 Slavia 0.
**Apr 10:** Teplice 1 Opava 0; Jablonec 1 Ceske Budejovice 2; Brno 1 Liberec 2; Drnovice 0 Chmel Blsany 0; Mlada Boleslav 0 Pribram 0.
**Apr 11:** Sparta 2 Zlin 0.
**Apr 16:** Slavia 1 Sparta 1; Zlin 3 Brno 3; Ceske Budejovice 0 Slovacko 2; Opava 0 Drnovice 0.
**Apr 17:** Olomouc 2 Mlada Boleslav 0; Pribram 3 Jablonec 1; Chmel Blsany 2 Teplice 2.
**Apr 18:** Liberec 1 Ostrava 0.
**Apr 23:** Sparta 2 Ostrava 1; Opava 1 Slavia 2; Slovacko 1 Chmel Blsany 0.
**Apr 24:** Teplice 5 Ceske Budejovice 2; Brno 0 Olomouc 1; Drnovice 0 Pribram 1; Mlada Boleslav 1 Zlin 1.
**Apr 25:** Jablonec 1 Liberec 2.
**Apr 30:** Olomouc 0 Sparta 2; Zlin 1 Slovacko 0; Liberec 0 Drnovice 2; Ceske Budejovice 2 Opava 0.
**May 1:** Ostrava 2 Mlada Boleslav 0; Pribram 1 Brno 3; Chmel Blsany 0 Jablonec 0.
**May 2:** Slavia 2 Teplice 0.
**May 5:** Brno 0 Slavia 1.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sparta | 25 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 49 | 19 | 61 |
| Slavia | 25 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 35 | 23 | 43 |
| Teplice | 25 | 11 | 10 | 4 | 28 | 22 | 43 |
| Olomouc | 25 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 27 | 28 | 38 |
| Ostrava | 25 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 31 | 27 | 36 |
| Liberec* | 25 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 36 | 22 | 35 |
| Jablonec | 25 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 24 | 24 | 33 |
| Zlin | 25 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 25 | 30 | 29 |
| Drnovice | 25 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 25 | 27 | 28 |
| Pribram | 25 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 25 | 37 | 28 |
| Mlada Boleslav | 25 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 24 | 30 | 26 |
| Slovacko* | 25 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 24 | 18 | 25 |
| Chmel Blsany | 25 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 20 | 34 | 24 |
| Brno | 25 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 22 | 37 | 24 |
| C Budejovice | 25 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 33 | 21 |
| Opava* | 25 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 23 | 30 | 18 |

**Slovacko had 12pts deducted and Opava and Liberec 6pts for their part in a bribery scandal*

# DENMARK

**Apr 9:** AaB 2 Nordsjaelland 0; Midtjylland 0 Silkeborg 0.
**Apr 10:** Esbjerg 4 Viborg 1; FC Copenhagen 3 Brondby 0; Herfolge 1 AGF 0; Randers 1 OB 1.
**Apr 13:** Randers 2 Nordsjaelland 1.
**Apr 16:** AaB 0 Esbjerg 0; Viborg 0 Brondby 2.
**Apr 17:** AGF 1 FC Copenhagen 2; Nordsjaelland 0 OB 0; Herfolge 1 Midtjylland 3; Silkeborg 2 Randers 2.
**Apr 23:** FC Copenhagen 2 Nordsjaelland 0.
**Apr 24:** Esbjerg 5 Herfolge 1; Brondby 0 Silkeborg 0; Midtjylland 0 AGF 1; OB 0 Viborg 0; Randers 0 AaB 4.
**Apr 30:** Brondby 2 Randers 0.
**May 1:** Viborg 0 FC Copenhagen 2; AGF 0 Esbjerg 1; Nordsjaelland 3 Midtjylland 2; Herfolge 2 AaB 4; Silkeborg 4 OB 2.

**DENMARK**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brondby | 25 | 15 | 7 | 3 | 36 | 15 | 52 |
| FC Copenhagen | 25 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 48 | 29 | 48 |
| Midtjylland | 25 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 35 | 33 | 41 |
| AaB | 25 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 43 | 31 | 39 |
| Esbjerg | 25 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 47 | 35 | 37 |
| Viborg | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 27 | 29 | 35 |
| OB | 25 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 46 | 31 | 34 |
| Silkeborg | 25 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 40 | 41 | 33 |
| AGF | 25 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 36 | 39 | 32 |
| Randers | 25 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 48 | 22 |
| Nordsjaelland | 25 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 27 | 47 | 21 |
| Herfolge | 25 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 21 | 54 | 19 |

## ENGLAND

**Saturday, April 9**

**Blackburn 3** (Gamst Pedersen 11, Jakobsson og 48, Reid 55)
**Southampton 0** Att: 20,726

**Bolton 3** (Okocha pen 13, Nolan 33, Giannakopoulos 54)
**Fulham 1** (Boa Morte 47) Att: 25,493

**Chelsea 1** (Drogba 82)
**Birmingham 1** (Pandiani 65) Att: 42,031

**Manchester City 1** (Musampa 90)
**Liverpool 0** Att: 47,203

**Middlesbrough 0**
**Arsenal 1** (Pires 73) Att: 33,874

**Norwich 2** (Ashton 55, McKenzie 65)
**Manchester Utd 0** Att: 25,522

**Portsmouth 4** (Aiyegbeni 3, Stone 20, Kamara 83, Lua Lua 90)
**Charlton 2** (Fortune 22, Murphy 45) Att: 20,108

**Sunday, April 10**

**Aston Villa 1** (Vassell 27)
**West Bromwich 1** (Robinson 90) Att: 39,402

**Everton 4** (Arteta 8, Cahill 47, 54, Vaughan 87)
**Crystal Palace 0** Att: 36,519

**Tottenham 1** (Defoe 42)
**Newcastle 0** Att: 35,885

**Saturday, April 16**

**Birmingham 0**
**Portsmouth 0** Att: 28,883

**Charlton 1** (Jeffers 29)
**Bolton 2** (Okocha pen 7, Diouf 58) Att: 26,708

**Crystal Palace 3** (Kolkka 5, Hughes 73, Johnson pen 83)
**Norwich 3** (Ashton 22, 46, McKenzie 53) Att: 25,754

**Fulham 1** (Boa Morte 76)
**Manchester City 1** (Reyna 20) Att: 21,796

**Liverpool 2** (Luis Garcia 44, Hyypia 63)
**Tottenham 2** (Edman 12, Keane 55) Att: 44,029

**Southampton 2** (Phillips 4, Crouch 13)
**Aston Villa 3** (Cole 55, Solano 70, Davis 72) Att: 31,926

**Tuesday, April 19**

**Bolton 1** (Giannakopoulos 25)
**Southampton 1** (Phillips 69) Att: 25,125

**Middlesbrough 1** (Zenden pen 90)
**Fulham 1** (McBride 82) Att: 30,650

**Wednesday, April 20**

**Aston Villa 0**
**Charlton 0** Att: 31,312

**Blackburn 1** (Gamst Pedersen 45)
**Crystal Palace 0** Att: 18,006

**Chelsea 0**
**Arsenal 0** Att: 41,621

**Everton 1** (Ferguson 55)
**Manchester Utd 0** Att: 37,160

**Manchester City 3** (Taylor og 55, Dunne 80, Sibierski pen 86)
**Birmingham 0** Att: 42,453

**Norwich 2** (Safri 68, Ashton 90)
**Newcastle 1** (Kluivert 90) Att: 25,503

**Portsmouth 1** (Kamara 34)
**Liverpool 2** (Morientes 4, Luis Garcia 45) Att: 20,205

**Tottenham 1** (Keane 52)
**West Bromwich 1** (Gera 24) Att: 35,885

**Saturday, April 23**

**Aston Villa 1** (Hierro og 26)
**Bolton 1** (Speed 54) Att: 36,053

**Blackburn 0**
**Manchester City 0** Att: 24,646

**Chelsea 3** (J Cole 17, Lampard 64, Gudjohnsen 87)
**Fulham 1** (John 41) Att: 42,081

**Crystal Palace 1** (Johnson 34)
**Liverpool 0** Att: 26,043

**Everton 1** (Ferguson 86)
**Birmingham 1** (Heskey 5) Att: 36,828

**Middlesbrough 4** (Nemeth 27, 37, Hasselbaink 33, Downing 90)
**West Bromwich 0** Att: 32,951

**Norwich 1** (Svensson 88)
**Charlton 0** Att: 25,459

**Sunday, April 24**

**Manchester Utd 2** (Rooney 57, Brown 75)
**Newcastle 1** (Ambrose 27) Att: 67,845

**Portsmouth 4** (Aiyegbeni pen 4, De Zeeuw 17, Lua Lua 22, 27)
**Southampton 1** (Camara 20) Att: 20,120

**Monday, April 25**

**Arsenal 1** (Reyes 22)
**Tottenham 0** Att: 38,147

**Tuesday, April 26**

**West Bromwich 1** (Richardson 31)
**Blackburn 1** (Emerton 64) Att: 25,154

**Wednesday, April 27**

**Newcastle 0**
**Middlesbrough 0** Att: 52,047

**Saturday, April 30**

**Birmingham 2** (Blake 61, Heskey 80)
**Blackburn 1** (Stead 13) Att: 28,621

**Bolton 0**
**Chelsea 2** (Lampard 60, 76) Att: 27,653

**Fulham 2** (John 16, McBride 39)
**Everton 0** Att: 21,881

**Liverpool 1** (Gerrard 52)
**Middlesbrough 1** (Nemeth 4) Att: 43,250

**Manchester City 2** (Distin 4, Fowler 16)
**Portsmouth 0** Att: 46,454

**Newcastle 0**
**Crystal Palace 0** Att: 52,123

**Southampton 4** (Oakley 7, Crouch 20, Le Saux 39, Camara 88)
**Norwich 3** (Bentley 3, Higginbotham og 31, McKenzie 45) Att: 31,944

**Sunday, May 1**

**Charlton 0**
**Manchester Utd 4** (Scholes 34, Fletcher 44, Smith 62, Rooney 67) Att: 26,789

**Tottenham 5** (Kanoute 6, 27, King 19, Reid 67, Kelly 90)
**Aston Villa 1** (Barry pen 45) Att: 36,078

**Monday, May 2**

**West Bromwich 0**
**Arsenal 2** (Van Persie 66, Edu 90) Att: 27,351

**Wednesday, May 4**

**Fulham 1** (Radzinski 86)
**Newcastle 3** (Ambrose 18, Kluivert 62, Ameobi 75) Att: 19,003

**ENGLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 35 | 27 | 7 | 1 | 67 | 13 | 88 |
| Arsenal | 35 | 23 | 8 | 4 | 76 | 33 | 77 |
| Man Utd | 35 | 21 | 10 | 4 | 54 | 21 | 73 |
| Everton | 35 | 17 | 7 | 11 | 41 | 36 | 58 |
| Liverpool | 36 | 16 | 7 | 13 | 49 | 37 | 55 |
| Bolton | 36 | 15 | 9 | 12 | 45 | 41 | 54 |
| Tottenham | 36 | 14 | 9 | 13 | 47 | 40 | 51 |
| Middlesbrough | 36 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 51 | 45 | 51 |
| Man City | 36 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 44 | 37 | 48 |
| Aston Villa | 36 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 43 | 48 | 47 |
| Charlton | 36 | 12 | 9 | 15 | 40 | 55 | 45 |
| Newcastle | 36 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 46 | 54 | 43 |
| Birmingham | 36 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 38 | 44 | 42 |
| Blackburn | 36 | 9 | 14 | 13 | 31 | 40 | 41 |
| Portsmouth | 36 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 42 | 56 | 38 |
| Fulham | 36 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 43 | 59 | 38 |
| Southampton | 36 | 6 | 13 | 17 | 42 | 62 | 31 |
| Crystal Palace | 36 | 7 | 10 | 19 | 37 | 58 | 31 |
| West Brom | 36 | 5 | 15 | 16 | 33 | 60 | 30 |
| Norwich | 36 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 41 | 71 | 30 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**

25 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
20 Andy Johnson (Crystal Palace)
13 Jermain Defoe (Tottenham)

### FA CUP – semi-finals

**Apr 16:** Arsenal 3 Blackburn 0.
**Apr 17:** Newcastle 1 Manchester Utd 4.

## FRANCE

**Saturday, April 9**

**Caen 0**
**Metz 1** (Ogbeche 55) Att: 19,366

**Istres 2** (Bakayoko 50, Saveljic 85)
**Sochaux 0** Att: 7,397

**Lens 0**
**Nice 0** Att: 32,953

**Nantes 2** (Cetto 45, Bagayoko 64)
**Lyon 2** (Frau 36, 83) Att: 33,726

**Paris SG 1** (Ljuboja 32)
**Bordeaux 1** (Meriem pen 73) Att: 39,433

**Saint-Etienne 3** (Sable 8, Feindouno pen 87, Piquionne 90)
**Bastia 0** Att: 31,395

**Strasbourg 1** (Niang 90)
**Marseille 0** Att: 26,631

**Toulouse 0**
**Rennes 2** (Frei 26, Kallstrom 87) Att: 21,479

**Sunday, April 10**

**Ajaccio 4** (Waldir Lucas Pereira 1, Ouadah 40, Edson 57, Andre Luiz 69)
**Auxerre 3** (Kalou 4, Tainio 87, Akale 90) Att: 5,000

**Saturday, April 16**

**Bastia 2** (Andre 21, 52)
**Toulouse 1** (Emana 78) Att: 4,729

**Bordeaux 0**
**Nantes 2** (Diallo 19, Bagayoko 90) Att: 23,968

**Lille 2** (Moussilou 39, Fauvergue 89)
**Lens 1** (Leroy 43) Att: 16,178

**Marseille 1** (Beye 59)
**Ajaccio 2** (Demont 25, Edson 53) Att: 45,000

**Metz 2** (Tum 7, 90)
**Istres 1** (N'Diaye 87) Att: 17,742

**Nice 0**
**Caen 1** (Mazure 68) Att: 9,712

**Rennes 2** (Frei 31, Monterrubio pen 76)
**Saint-Etienne 2** (Piquionne 7, Sable 63) Att: 29,164

**Sochaux 1** (Ilan 36)
**Monaco 1** (Chevanton 9) Att: 19,696

**Sunday, April 17**

**Auxerre 0**
**Strasbourg 0** Att: 12,000

**Lyon 0**
**Paris SG 1** (Ljuboja 45) Att: 42,000

**Friday, April 22**

**Paris SG 3** (Pauleta pen 39, Rothen 42, Semak 85)
**Nice 1** (Armand og 90) Att: 36,098

**Saturday, April 23**

**Ajaccio 0**
**Bordeaux 0** Att: 6,000

**Caen 0**
**Bastia 1** (Andre 58) Att: 19,601

**Istres 0**
**Rennes 2** (Maoulida 14, Frei 88) Att: 6,000

**Lens 3** (Cousin pen 11, Utaka pen 15, Thomert 83)
**Sochaux 2** (Santos 62, 88) Att: 31,804

**Monaco 2** (Saviola 55, Chevanton pen 65)
**Toulouse 1** (Suarez 72) Att: 10,031

**Nantes 2** (Quint 28, 47)
**Marseille 2** (Pedretti 68, Koke 82) Att: 37,650

**Saint-Etienne 0**
**Metz 0** Att: 33,766

**Strasbourg 1** (Niang 69)
**Lille 2** (Moussilou 34, Dumont 63) Att: 15,920

**Sunday, April 24**

**Auxerre 0**
**Lyon 3** (Juninho 26, Essien 45, Cris 55) Att: 18,000

**Friday, April 29**

**Auxerre 3** (Jaures 26, Mwaruwari 51, 74)
**Toulouse 2** (Suarez 56, 62) Att: 8,000

**Sunday, May 1**

**Monaco 2** (Squillaci 65, Adebayor 90)
**Lille 0** Att: 11,594

**FRANCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lyon | 34 | 19 | 12 | 3 | 48 | 20 | 69 |
| Lille | 34 | 15 | 13 | 6 | 45 | 25 | 58 |
| Monaco | 34 | 14 | 15 | 5 | 45 | 31 | 57 |
| Marseille | 34 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 42 | 35 | 53 |
| Rennes | 34 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 43 | 36 | 51 |
| Auxerre | 34 | 14 | 8 | 12 | 47 | 43 | 50 |
| Paris SG | 34 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 35 | 35 | 47 |
| Saint-Etienne | 34 | 10 | 16 | 8 | 42 | 31 | 46 |
| Sochaux | 34 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 37 | 34 | 46 |
| Toulouse | 34 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 34 | 36 | 46 |
| Lens | 34 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 37 | 33 | 45 |
| Bordeaux | 34 | 8 | 17 | 9 | 32 | 32 | 41 |
| Metz | 34 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 28 | 38 | 40 |
| Strasbourg | 34 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 35 | 37 | 39 |
| Nantes | 34 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 31 | 34 | 39 |
| Ajaccio | 34 | 8 | 15 | 11 | 30 | 36 | 39 |
| Nice | 34 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 36 | 45 | 38 |
| Bastia | 34 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 40 | 35 |
| Caen | 34 | 7 | 12 | 15 | 26 | 53 | 33 |
| Istres | 34 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 21 | 45 | 26 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**

17 Alexander Frei (Rennes)
13 Pauleta (Paris SG)
12 Ilan (Sochaux)
12 Juninho Pernambucano (Lyon)
12 Mickael Pagis (Strasbourg)

### FRENCH CUP – quarter-finals

**Apr 19:** Monaco 1 Clermont Foot 0 (aet); Sedan 2 Grenoble 1 (aet).
**Apr 20:** Boulogne-sur-Mer 1 Auxerre 2 (aet); Nimes 4 Sochaux 3 (aet).

### LEAGUE CUP – Final

*Apr 30 - Stade de France, Saint-Denis*
**Caen 1** (Mazure 43)
**Strasbourg 2** (Niang 39, Devaux 79)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 78,721. **Ref:** Veissiere

## GERMANY

**Saturday, April 9**

**Bayer Leverkusen 0**
**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Kehl 89) Att: 22,500

**Bayern Munich 2** (Scholl 66, Ballack 84)
**Monchengladbach 1** (Ulich 65) Att: 63,000

**Bochum 1** (Cherundolo og 56)
**Hannover 0** Att: 23,821

Championship decider…Frank Lampard celebrates his first goal in the 2-0 victory at Bolton that clinched the title for Chelsea

**Hamburg 1** (Mahdavikia 58)
**Werder Bremen 2** (Klose 8, Klasnic 70) Att: 55,500

**Hertha 3** (Marcelinho 6, pen 21, Kovac 90)
**Freiburg 1** (Koejoe 73) Att: 33,291

**Mainz 0**
**Wolfsburg 2** (Brdaric 64, Schnoor 78) Att: 20,300

**Stuttgart 3** (Kuranyi 5, 47, 64)
**Schalke 0** Att: 48,600

**Sunday, April 10**
**Arminia Bielefeld 0**
**Kaiserslautern 2** (Jancker 6, Altintop 24) Att: 21,385

**Nurnberg 3** (Wagefeld 59, 88, Mintal 68)
**Hansa Rostock 0** Att: 32,855

**Saturday, April 16**
**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Kringe 16)
**Arminia Bielefeld 1** (Boakye 86) Att: 79,400

**Freiburg 1** (Iashvili 37)
**Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Schneider 26, Berbatov 66, 83) Att: 22,000

**Hannover 0**
**Bayern Munich 1** (Hargreaves 90) Att: 49,845

**Hansa Rostock 2** (Allback 39, Prica 74)
**Stuttgart 1** (Cacau 46) Att: 20,500

**Monchengladbach 1** (Neuville 51)
**Mainz 1** (Thurk 90) Att: 53,466

**Schalke 1** (Asamoah 3)
**Hamburg 2** (Wicky 61, Krstajic og 87) Att: 61,524

**Werder Bremen 0**
**Hertha 1** (Marcelinho 30) Att: 40,453

**Sunday, April 17**
**Kaiserslautern 1** (Blank pen 61)
**Bochum 2** (Maltritz 39, Diabang 74) Att: 33,000

**Wolfsburg 0**
**Nurnberg 1** (Kiessling 63) Att: 19,276

**Saturday, April 23**
**Arminia Bielefeld 3** (Porcello 5, 55, 69)
**Freiburg 1** (Cairo 15) Att: 16,811

**Bayern Munich 3** (Pizarro 9, Ballack 26, Makaay 63)
**Bochum 1** (Tapalovic 51) Att: 63,000

**Borussia Dortmund 4** (Ewerthon 12, Kehl 29, Koller 61, 74)
**Kaiserslautern 2** (Altintop 5, Amanatidis 42) Att: 75,800

**Hamburg 3** (Mpenza 49, Benjamin 61, Takahara 64)
**Hansa Rostock 0** Att: 55,800

**Hertha 4** (Basturk 5, Marcelinho pen 35, 58, Rafael 50)
**Schalke 1** (Sand 17) Att: 74,500

**Mainz 2** (Abel 23, Gerber 79)
**Hannover 0** Att: 20,300

**Stuttgart 0**
**Wolfsburg 0** Att: 45,000

**Sunday, April 24**
**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Krzynowek 3, Babic 38)
**Werder Bremen 1** (Klose 39) Att: 22,500

**Nurnberg 0**
**Monchengladbach 0** Att: 43,019

**Saturday, April 30**
**Bochum 2** (Lokvenc 26, Bechman 87)
**Mainz 6** (Auer 6, Thurk 60, Gerber 65, Da Silva 68, Weigelt 78, Casey 84) Att: 31,056

**Freiburg 2** (Sanou 11, Coulibaly 84)
**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Ewerthon 37, Koller 40) Att: 24,500

**Hansa Rostock 2** (Sebastian 45, Litmanen 70)
**Hertha 1** (Basturk 74) Att: 25,100

**Kaiserslautern 0**
**Bayern Munich 4** (Ballack 19, Makaay 35, 48, 67) Att: 40,721

**Monchengladbach 2** (Neuville 17, Sverkos 24)
**Stuttgart 0** Att: 53,466

**Schalke 3** (Lincoln 30, 38, Sand 41)
**Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Freier 23, Berbatov 56, Voronin 64) Att: 61,524

**Werder Bremen 3** (Magnin 43, Borowski 53, Klose 78)
**Arminia Bielefeld 0** Att: 39,952

**Sunday, May 1**
**Hannover 1** (Kaufman 87)
**Nurnberg 0** Att: 40,017

**Wolfsburg 1** (Petrov 41)
**Hamburg 0** Att: 27,966

**GERMANY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern Munich | 31 | 21 | 5 | 5 | 62 | 27 | 68 |
| Schalke | 31 | 18 | 3 | 10 | 50 | 42 | 57 |
| Stuttgart | 31 | 16 | 7 | 8 | 52 | 35 | 55 |
| Werder Bremen | 31 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 62 | 34 | 53 |
| Hertha | 31 | 14 | 11 | 6 | 56 | 30 | 53 |
| B Leverkusen | 31 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 55 | 41 | 50 |
| Hamburg | 31 | 16 | 2 | 13 | 54 | 47 | 50 |
| B Dortmund | 31 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 42 | 42 | 46 |
| Wolfsburg | 31 | 14 | 2 | 15 | 44 | 45 | 44 |
| Hannover | 31 | 12 | 5 | 14 | 32 | 34 | 41 |
| Kaiserslautern | 31 | 11 | 6 | 14 | 38 | 46 | 39 |
| A Bielefeld | 31 | 11 | 6 | 14 | 35 | 44 | 39 |
| Mainz | 31 | 10 | 7 | 14 | 43 | 48 | 37 |
| Nurnberg | 31 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 49 | 54 | 35 |
| M'gladbach | 31 | 8 | 10 | 13 | 34 | 46 | 34 |
| Bochum | 31 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 43 | 66 | 29 |
| Hansa Rostock | 31 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 29 | 59 | 29 |
| Freiburg | 31 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 26 | 66 | 18 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
22 Marek Mintal (Nurnberg)
17 Marcelinho (Hertha)
16 Roy Makaay (Bayern Munich)

## GERMAN CUP – semi-finals

**Apr 19:** Schalke 2 Werder Bremen 2 (aet; Schalke 5-4 on pens).
**Apr 20:** Arminia Bielefeld 0 Bayern Munich 2.

## GREECE

**Apr 9:** Iraklis 5 Kerkira 1; Kallithea 1 Aigaleo 0.
**Apr 10:** Panathinaikos 1 Olympiakos 0; AEK 2 PAOK 0; Xanthi 3 Panionios 0; OFI 0 Halkidona 1; Ionikos 1 Ergotelis 0; Aris 0 Apollon 0.
**Apr 16:** Panionios 1 Iraklis 2; Ergotelis 1 Panathinaikos 3.
**Apr 17:** PAOK 4 OFI 1; AEK 2 Xanthi 1; Aigaleo 2 Aris 1; Halkidona 0 Ionikos 1; Kerkira 0 Kallithea 1; Apollon 0 Olympiakos 2.
**Apr 23:** Ionikos 1 PAOK 1; Apollon 1 Ergotelis 0.
**Apr 24:** Panathinaikos 6 Halkidona 3; Olympiakos 3 Aigaleo 1; Xanthi 1 Iraklis 0; OFI 2 AEK 3; Kallithea 1 Panionios 1; Aris 2 Kerkira 0.

**GREECE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panathinaikos | 27 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 48 | 16 | 59 |
| AEK | 27 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 43 | 21 | 58 |
| Olympiakos | 27 | 16 | 8 | 3 | 47 | 17 | 56 |
| Xanthi | 27 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 41 | 27 | 46 |
| PAOK | 27 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 39 | 32 | 45 |
| Aigaleo | 27 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 23 | 23 | 36 |
| Iraklis | 27 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 29 | 28 | 35 |
| Halkidona | 27 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 28 | 32 | 35 |
| Kallithea | 27 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 35 | 37 | 34 |
| Panionios | 27 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 22 | 28 | 31 |
| Ionikos | 27 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 31 | 31 |
| OFI | 27 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 34 | 42 | 28 |
| Aris | 27 | 5 | 12 | 10 | 24 | 31 | 27 |
| Apollon | 27 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 26 | 43 | 27 |
| Ergotelis | 27 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 18 | 45 | 19 |
| Kerkira | 27 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 18 | 42 | 16 |

## HOLLAND

**Friday, April 8**
**Den Haag 2** (Stroeve 18, Edson 69)
**De Graafschap 0** Att: 5,503

**Saturday, April 9**
**Groningen 3** (Seedorf 17, 82, Fledderus 74)
**RBC 0** Att: 12,390

**Heerenveen 1** (Yildirim 61)
**Twente 2** (Culina 38, 59) Att: 21,000

**PSV 3** (Cocu 30, Bouma 61, Van Bommel 89)
**Den Bosch 0** Att: 31,200

**Sunday, April 10**
**Ajax 4** (De Jong 19, 42, Sneijder 51, Pienaar 62)
**AZ 2** (Nelisse 38, Sektioui 86) Att: 49,882

**NAC 0**
**Feyenoord 2** (Kalou 43, Ono 82) Att: 15,124

**NEC 1** (Niedzielan 32)
**Vitesse 1** (Amoah 6) Att: 12,000

**RKC 1** (Oost 67)
**Roda JC 0** Att: 6,000

**Wednesday, April 13**
**Den Bosch 4** (Cales 18, Van de Laak 74, 78, Olfers 88)
**Feyenoord 1** (Bahia 63) Att: 5,800

**Friday, April 15**
**Roda JC 3** (Colinet 33, 58, Sergio 42)
**Utrecht 2** (Kruys 37, Van de Haar 79) Att: 13,700

**Saturday, April 16**
**De Graafschap 2** (Van Beukering pen 25, Robbemond 57)
**RKC 4** (Oost 1, 40, 90, Takak 60) Att: 11,000

**RBC 2** (Guijt 3, Loran 21)
**Den Haag 0** Att: 4,800

**Vitesse 1** (Amoah 20)
**Heerenveen 3** (Samaras 67, Yildirim 71, Nilsson 86) Att: 22,913

**Sunday, April 17**
**AZ 1** (Sektioui 6)
**NAC 1** (Boussaboun 69) Att: 8,340

**Den Bosch 1** (Mghizrat 80)
**Groningen 2** (Nevland 48, 50) Att: 5,564

**Feyenoord 2** (Kalou 48, Kuijt 80)
**Ajax 3** (De Jong 57, Grygera 86, Maduro 90) Att: 46,500

**Twente 2** (Shoukov 19, Niemeyer 59)
**NEC 1** (T Hendriks 66) Att: 13,100

**Willem II 0**
**PSV 1** (Robert 62) Att: 12,700

**Wednesday, April 20**
**Utrecht 3** (De Jong 36, Tanghe 54, 64)
**AZ 2** (Van Galen 35, Perez 61) Att: 20,100

**Friday, April 22**
**Heerenveen 7** (Huntelaar pen 18, 29, 34, Samaras 43, 64, 75, Nilsson 86)
**RBC 1** (De Groot 52) Att: 20,400

**Saturday, April 23**
**Den Haag 1** (Verhoek 84)
**Roda JC 4** (Kone 23, 43, 81, Bodnar 36) Att: 6,612

**PSV 3** (Park 23, Van Bommel 44, Sibon 87)
**Vitesse 0** Att: 33,600

**RKC 2** (Jaliens og 32, Fuchs 87)
**AZ 1** (Opdam 24) Att: 6,500

**Sunday, April 24**
**Ajax 1** (Anastasiou 86)
**De Graafschap 0** Att: 48,707

**Groningen 0**
**Feyenoord 2** (Bahia 35, Hofs 89) Att: 12,000

**NAC 1** (Lurling 42)
**Willem II 2** (Caluwe 2, Redan 58) Att: 12,833

**NEC 2** (Tininho 57, Van den Eede 81)
**Den Bosch 2** (Powel 46, Van den Ouweland 90) Att: 11,750

**Utrecht 2** (Tanghe 26, Van de Haar 72)
**Twente 2** (Schuurman 59, N'Kufo 88) Att: 20,160

**Friday, April 29**
**Roda JC 1** (Sergio 76)
**NEC 0** Att: 12,300

**Twente 2** (Culina 62, Touma 69)
**PSV 2** (Sibon 67, Vennegoor of Hesselink 76) Att: 13,100

**Saturday, April 30**
**RBC 1** (Smolders 80)
**Ajax 4** (Pienaar 23, Sneijder 38, Haristeas 39, Galasek pen 62) Att: 5,000

ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
GOLDEN SHOE

**ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 01.05.05**

| POS | NAME | TEAM | GOALS | FACTOR | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Thierry Henry | Arsenal (Eng) | 25 | 2 | 50 |
| 2 | Samuel Eto'o | Barcelona (Spa) | 22 | 2 | 44 |
| | Marek Mintal | Nurnberg (Ger) | 22 | 2 | 44 |
| 4 | Alberto Gilardino | Parma (Ita) | 21 | 2 | 42 |
| | Vincenzo Montella | Roma (Ita) | 21 | 2 | 42 |
| 6 | Diego Forlan | Villarreal (Spa) | 20 | 2 | 40 |
| | Andy Johnson | Crystal Palace (Eng) | 20 | 2 | 40 |
| | Cristiano Lucarelli | Livorno (Ita) | 20 | 2 | 40 |
| 9 | Fatih Tekke | Trabzonspor (Tur) | 25 | 1.5 | 37.5 |
| | Liedson | Sporting Lisbon (Por) | 25 | 1.5 | 37.5 |
| 11 | Dirk Kuijt | Feyenoord (Hol) | 24 | 1.5 | 36 |
| | Ricardo Oliveira | Betis (Spa) | 18 | 2 | 36 |
| | Ronaldo | Real Madrid (Spa) | 18 | 2 | 36 |
| 14 | Alex | Fenerbahce (Tur) | 23 | 1.5 | 34.5 |
| | John Hartson | Celtic (Sco) | 23 | 1.5 | 34.5 |
| | Zlatan Ibrahimovic | Ajax (Hol)/Juventus (Ita) | 3+15 | 1.5/2 | 34.5 |
| | Martin Kamburov | Lokomotiv Plovdiv (Bul) | 23 | 1.5 | 34.5 |

For the latest standings, updated weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com

**Sunday, May 1**
**AZ 2** (Lindenbergh 16, Ramzi 72)
**Groningen 1** (Nevland 87) Att: 8,457

**De Graafschap 0**
**Utrecht 0** Att: 11,000

**Den Bosch 0**
**NAC 2** (Boussaboun 64, Colin 67) Att: 5,630

**Feyenoord 1** (Kuijt 37)
**Heerenveen 3** (Vayrynen 16, 41, Hansson 78) Att: 39,000

**Vitesse 3** (Rankovic 36, Rojer 57, Amoah pen 82)
**RKC 1** (Hoogendorp 24) Att: 21,242

**Willem II 1** (Reuser 20)
**Den Haag 0** Att 12,500

**HOLLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSV | 31 | 25 | 5 | 1 | 81 | 15 | 80 |
| Ajax | 31 | 21 | 5 | 5 | 66 | 32 | 68 |
| AZ | 31 | 19 | 7 | 5 | 69 | 33 | 64 |
| Feyenoord | 31 | 18 | 5 | 8 | 82 | 42 | 59 |
| Heerenveen | 31 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 58 | 48 | 53 |
| Twente | 31 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 44 | 36 | 50 |
| Vitesse | 31 | 14 | 6 | 11 | 49 | 45 | 48 |
| Roda JC | 31 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 55 | 48 | 45 |
| RKC | 31 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 42 | 44 | 44 |
| Utrecht | 31 | 11 | 8 | 12 | 36 | 38 | 41 |
| Groningen | 31 | 11 | 6 | 14 | 44 | 50 | 39 |
| Willem II | 31 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 36 | 54 | 38 |
| NAC | 31 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 39 | 58 | 34 |
| NEC | 31 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 35 | 45 | 31 |
| Den Haag | 31 | 8 | 6 | 17 | 33 | 50 | 30 |
| RBC | 31 | 7 | 2 | 22 | 30 | 74 | 23 |
| De Graafschap | 31 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 30 | 69 | 19 |
| Den Bosch | 31 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 22 | 70 | 16 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
24 Dirk Kuijt (Feyenoord)
19 Salomon Kalou (Feyenoord)
16 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)

## DUTCH CUP – semi-finals

**Apr 20:** Feyenoord 1 PSV 1 (aet; PSV 4-2 on pens).
**Apr 21:** Willem II 1 Ajax 0.

## HUNGARY

**Apr 9:** Papa 0 Nyiregyhaza 0; Ferencvaros 1 Kaposvar 1; Debrecen 3 MTK 0; Honved 2 Gyor 3; Pecs 0 Fehervar 2; Matav 3 Bekescsaba 2; Zalaegerszeg 3 Diosgyor 2.
**Apr 10:** Ujpest 4 Vasas 0.
**Apr 13:** Nyiregyhaza 2 Ferencvaros 0; Vasas 0 Papa 6; Fehervar 1 Zalaegerszeg 1; Matav 2 Ujpest 2; MTK 1 Pecs 1; Diosgyor 5 Honved 1; Kaposvar 0 Debrecen 0; Bekescsaba 1 Gyor 1.
**Apr 16:** Papa 0 Matav 0; Debrecen 2 Nyiregyhaza 1; Gyor 2 Diosgyor 1; Honved 1 Fehervar 0; Pecs 0 Kaposvar 0; Ujpest 3 Bekescsaba 0; Zalaegerszeg 0 MTK 1.
**Apr 17:** Ferencvaros 2 Vasas 0.
**Apr 20:** Bekescsaba 2 Nyiregyhaza 3.
**Apr 22:** MTK 3 Honved 0.
**Apr 23:** Nyiregyhaza 1 Pecs 0; Bekescsaba 0 Diosgyor 2; Fehervar 2 Gyor 1; Kaposvar 0 Zalaegerszeg 2; Vasas 2 Debrecen 5; Ujpest 3 Papa 1.
**Apr 24:** Matav 3 Ferencvaros 0.
**Apr 27:** Papa 2 Bekescsaba 0; Zalaegerszeg 2 Nyiregyhaza 0; Honved 1 Kaposvar 1; Gyor 1 MTK 1; Diosgyor 3 Fehervar 1; Ferencvaros 1 Ujpest 1; Debrecen 3 Matav 0; Pecs 1 Vasas 0.
**Apr 30:** Papa 1 Ferencvaros 2; Bekescsaba 0 Fehervar 0; MTK 0 Diosgyor 0; Kaposvar 1 Gyor 2; Nyiregyhaza 1 Honved 1; Vasas 1 Zalaegerszeg 0; Matav 2 Pecs 2.
**May 1:** Ujpest 2 Debrecen 0.
**May 4:** Honved 1 Vasas 0; Gyor 3 Nyiregyhaza 1; Diosgyor 2 Kaposvar 0; Fehervar 2 MTK 3; Debrecen 3 Papa 1; Pecs 1 Ujpest 0; Zalaegerszeg 0 Matav 1; Ferencvaros 2 Bekescsaba 0.

**HUNGARY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debrecen | 26 | 17 | 4 | 5 | 48 | 21 | 55 |
| Ferencvaros | 26 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 51 | 27 | 49 |
| Gyor | 26 | 14 | 6 | 6 | 39 | 27 | 48 |
| Ujpest | 26 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 49 | 29 | 45 |
| MTK* | 25 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 38 | 24 | 45 |
| Zalaegerszeg | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 37 | 35 | 38 |
| Matav | 25 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 40 | 40 | 37 |
| Fehervar** | 26 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 36 | 29 | 35 |
| Honved | 26 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 36 | 53 | 34 |
| Diosgyor | 26 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 35 | 40 | 32 |
| Pecs | 26 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 24 | 31 | 29 |
| Vasas | 26 | 9 | 1 | 16 | 31 | 45 | 28 |
| Papa | 26 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 36 | 38 | 26 |
| Kaposvar | 26 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 28 | 43 | 26 |
| Nyiregyhaza | 26 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 32 | 50 | 24 |
| Bekescsaba | 26 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 23 | 51 | 19 |

**1pt deducted for non-payment of wages to a former coach*
***3pts deducted for non-payment of three former players*

## ITALY

**Saturday, April 9**
**Bologna 0**
**Inter 1** (Cruz 3) Att: 23,000

**Fiorentina 3** (Pazzini 14, Chiellini 36, Dainelli 75)
**Juventus 3** (Del Piero 22, Ibrahimovic 59, 82) Att: 45,614

**Milan 1** (Rui Costa 14)
**Brescia 1** (Wome 87) Att: 59,726

**Sunday, April 10**
**Atalanta 3** (Marcolini pen 6, Makinwa 15, Montolivo 54)
**Chievo 0** Att: 16,807

**Cagliari 0**
**Sampdoria 0** Att: 15,000

**Lazio 3** (Muzzi 16, Cesar pen 45, Rocchi 55)
**Livorno 1** (Protti pen 62) Att: 33,594

**Lecce 2** (Konan 10, Paci 55)
**Siena 2** (Maccarone 18, Taddei 81) Att: 10,671

**Palermo 2** (Zaccardo 52, Toni 76)
**Messina 1** (Zampagna 69) Att: 33,984

**Reggina 1** (Mozart pen 53)
**Parma 3** (Morfeo 22, 49, Simplicio 63) Att: 14,615

**Udinese 3** (Di Natale 27, Pinzi 33, Di Michele 75)
**Roma 3** (Chivu 14, Montella 23, Mancini 44) Att: 14,452

**Saturday, April 16**
**Messina 1** (Iliev 60)
**Udinese 0**

**Roma 1** (Chivu 24)
**Reggina 2** (Franceschini 72, Bonazzoli 82) Att: 50,000

**Sampdoria 1** (Flachi pen 90)
**Palermo 0**

**Sunday, April 17**
**Bologna 1** (Giunti 15)
**Lazio 2** (Oddo pen 54, Rocchi 74) Att: 14,694

**Brescia 1** (Di Biagio pen 90)
**Atalanta 0** Att: 10,801

**Chievo 2** (Marchesetti 67, Cossato 78)
**Parma 0** Att: 11,881

**Inter 2** (Ze Maria 40, Martins 65)
**Cagliari 0** Att: 50,367

**Juventus 5** (Appiah 15, Ibrahimovic 33, 42, 82, Nedved 55)
**Lecce 2** (Vucinic 6, Dalla Bona pen 86) Att: 21,048

**Livorno 2** (C Lucarelli pen 12, 42)
**Fiorentina 0** Att: 17,552

**Siena 2** (Chiesa 72, Cozza 86)
**Milan 1** (Crespo 63) Att: 13,730

**Wednesday, April 20**
**Cagliari 1** (Esposito 70)
**Lazio 1** (Siviglia 90) Att: 14,000

**Fiorentina 1** (Dainelli 60)
**Messina 1** (Di Napoli 90) Att: 27,704

**Juventus 0**
**Inter 1** (Cruz 24) Att: 23,157

**Lecce 1** (Giacomazzi 20)
**Bologna 1** (Bellucci 42) Att: 10,894

**Milan 1** (Seedorf 64)
**Chievo 0** Att: 54,894

**Palermo 3** (Terlizzi 14, Toni pen 40, 79)
**Brescia 3** (Wome 17, Di Biagio pen 21, Caracciolo 85) Att: 33,067

**Parma 1** (Gilardino 39)
**Sampdoria 1** (Gasbarroni 35) Att: 13,255

**Reggina 0**
**Atalanta 0** Att: 14,521

**Roma 0**
**Siena 2** (Maccarone 60, Chiesa 87) Att: 40,069

**Udinese 1** (Mauri 8)
**Livorno 1** (C Lucarelli 86) Att: 12,947

**Saturday, April 23**
**Milan 3** (Kaka 33, Tomasson 62, Cafu 71)
**Parma 0** Att: 60,818

**Siena 2** (Maccarone 9, Taddei 57)
**Udinese 3** (Di Michele 6, 53, Iaquinta 66) Att: 8,240

**Sunday, April 24**
**Atalanta 1** (Sala 88)
**Palermo 0** Att: 13,000

**Bologna 0**
**Fiorentina 0** Att: 15,427

**Brescia 2** (Di Biagio 47, Stankevicius 76)
**Reggina 0** Att: 7,883

**Chievo 1** (Pellissier 32)
**Cagliari 1** (Gobbi 72) Att: 7,390

**Lazio 0**
**Juventus 1** (Nedved 85) Att: 45,462

**Livorno 1** (C Lucarelli 90)
**Lecce 0** Att: 14,138

**Messina 2** (Di Napoli 58, Rafael 90)
**Inter 1** (Cruz 46) Att: 34,602

**Sampdoria 2** (Tonetto 32, Flachi pen 79)
**Roma 1** (Montella pen 90) Att: 23,969

**Saturday, April 30**
**Cagliari 1** (Bianchi 90)
**Reggina 1** (Colucci 36) Att: 11,500

**Fiorentina 1** (Maresca 25)
**Milan 2** (Shevchenko 46, 55) Att: 45,909

**Sunday, May 1**
**Inter 2** (Cruz pen 2, Vieri 30)
**Siena 0** Att: 40,266

**Juventus 2** (Cannavaro 18, Zalayeta 24)
**Bologna 1** (Giunti 26) Att: 35,690

**Lecce 5** (Dalla Bona pen 6, Vucinic 45, 78, 82, Diamoutene 73)
**Lazio 3** (Rocchi 30, 52, 58) Att: 21,420

**Messina 2** (Zampagna 30, 60)
**Sampdoria 2** (Flachi 27, Volpi 75) Att: 12,500

**Palermo 2** (Toni 18, Zauli 28)
**Chievo 2** (Pellissier 10, Semioli 56) Att: 32,853

**Parma 6** (Gilardino 3, 36, 72, 85, Pisanu 27, Simplicio 47)
**Livorno 4** (C Lucarelli 22 , 25, pen 61, 74) Att: 15,000

**Roma 2** (Perrotta 4, De Rossi 76)
**Brescia 2** (Wome 49, Caracciolo 79) Att: 42,598

**Udinese 2** (Mauri 2, Iaquinta 36)
**Atalanta 1** (Lazzari 4) Att: 17,850

**ITALY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milan | 34 | 23 | 7 | 4 | 57 | 21 | 76 |
| Juventus | 34 | 23 | 7 | 4 | 58 | 23 | 76 |
| Inter | 34 | 15 | 17 | 2 | 60 | 37 | 62 |
| Udinese | 34 | 16 | 8 | 10 | 52 | 37 | 56 |
| Sampdoria | 34 | 16 | 8 | 10 | 38 | 27 | 56 |
| Palermo | 34 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 41 | 37 | 49 |
| Messina | 34 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 39 | 46 | 44 |
| Livorno | 34 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 43 | 50 | 43 |
| Cagliari | 34 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 47 | 53 | 42 |
| Lecce | 34 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 59 | 63 | 41 |
| Lazio | 34 | 11 | 8 | 15 | 44 | 48 | 41 |
| Bologna | 34 | 9 | 13 | 12 | 31 | 32 | 40 |
| Roma | 34 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 53 | 56 | 40 |
| Reggina | 34 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 32 | 41 | 40 |
| Parma | 34 | 9 | 10 | 15 | 43 | 59 | 37 |
| Siena | 34 | 7 | 15 | 12 | 36 | 50 | 36 |
| Chievo | 34 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 29 | 47 | 36 |
| Brescia | 34 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 33 | 46 | 35 |
| Fiorentina | 34 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 36 | 48 | 34 |
| Atalanta | 34 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 31 | 41 | 31 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
21 Alberto Gilardino (Parma)
21 Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
20 Cristiano Lucarelli (Livorno)
17 Luca Toni (Palermo)

## NORTHERN IRELAND

**NORTHERN IRELAND – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Glentoran | 30 | 24 | 2 | 4 | 73 | 22 | 74 |
| Linfield | 30 | 22 | 6 | 2 | 78 | 23 | 72 |
| Portadown | 30 | 18 | 4 | 8 | 64 | 29 | 58 |
| Dungannon | 30 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 57 | 39 | 50 |
| Limavady | 30 | 13 | 9 | 8 | 52 | 36 | 48 |
| Coleraine | 30 | 14 | 5 | 11 | 62 | 47 | 47 |
| Lisburn | 30 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 49 | 42 | 47 |
| Ballymena | 30 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 40 | 37 | 45 |
| Institute | 30 | 11 | 3 | 16 | 36 | 50 | 36 |
| Newry | 30 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 38 | 63 | 35 |
| Cliftonville | 30 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 29 | 44 | 34 |
| Loughgall | 30 | 8 | 6 | 16 | 34 | 53 | 30 |
| Larne | 30 | 7 | 7 | 16 | 31 | 60 | 28 |
| Ards | 30 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 33 | 54 | 26 |
| Crusaders | 30 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 27 | 48 | 24 |
| Omagh | 30 | 5 | 2 | 23 | 32 | 88 | 17 |

## NORWAY

**Apr 10:** Start 3 Lillestrom 1; Viking 2 Bodo/Glimt 1; Lyn 1 Fredrikstad 1; Ham-Kam 3 Valerenga 1; Rosenborg 2 Aalesund 2; Odd Grenland 1 Tromso 1.
**Apr 11:** Brann 2 Molde 0.
**Apr 16:** Aalesund 2 Odd Grenland 1.
**Apr 17:** Bodo/Glimt 0 Rosenborg 1; Molde 0 Start 1; Lillestrom 1 Lyn 0; Valerenga 2 Brann 1; Tromso 1 Ham-Kam 0.
**Apr 18:** Fredrikstad 2 Viking 1.
**Apr 24:** Viking 3 Lillestrom 1; Molde 1 Valerenga 3; Lyn 1 Start 1; Ham-Kam 2 Aalesund 1; Rosenborg 0 Fredrikstad 1; Odd Grenland 2 Bodo/Glimt 1.
**Apr 25:** Brann 0 Tromso 0.
**May 1:** Fredrikstad 1 Odd Grenland 1; Start 5 Viking 2; Bodo/Glimt 2 Ham-Kam 0; Lillestrom 1 Rosenborg 1; Lyn 6 Molde 1; Tromso 0 Valerenga 1.
**May 2:** Aalesund 1 Brann 3.
**May 5:** Viking 0 Lyn 0; Molde 2 Tromso 1; Brann 2 Bodo/Glimt 3; Ham-Kam 1 Fredrikstad 1; Valerenga 3 Aalesund 1; Rosenborg 3 Start 0; Odd Grenland 0 Lillestrom 2.

**NORWAY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valerenga | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Start | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 10 |
| Fredrikstad | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| Rosenborg | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| Brann | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Ham-Kam | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Viking | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| Lillestrom | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Lyn | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| Bodo/Glimt | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Tromso | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Odd Grenland | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Aalesund | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 4 |
| Molde | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 3 |

## POLAND

**Apr 9:** Odra 0 Gornik L 5; Zaglebie 1 Gornik Z 1; Amica 1 Lech 0; Pogon 1 Groclin 0; Wisla P 1 Wisla K 1; Katowice 2 Polonia 3.
**Apr 10:** Cracovia 1 Legia 0.
**Apr 13:** Odra 0 Cracovia 1.
**Apr 16:** Gornik L 4 Katowice 2; Polonia 1 Wisla P 4; Groclin 4 Amica 0; Lech 2 Zaglebie 0; Gornik Z 1 Cracovia 0.
**Apr 17:** Wisla K 1 Pogon 1; Legia 0 Odra 1.
**Apr 19:** Cracovia 1 Zaglebie 0.
**Apr 20:** Amica 2 Odra 2; Gornik L 2 Wisla K 2; Lech 3 Katowice 1; Gornik Z 1 Wisla P 0.
**Apr 22:** Zaglebie 1 Groclin 1.
**Apr 23:** Legia 1 Gornik L 1; Odra 1 Gornik Z 2; Cracovia 2 Lech 0; Pogon 1 Polonia 1; Wisla P 0 Katowice 0.
**Apr 24:** Amica 0 Wisla K 1.
**Apr 27:** Lech 1 Pogon 1.
**May 1:** Gornik Z 1 Amica 1; Gornik L 3 Wisla P 2.
**May 2:** Wisla K 6 Zaglebie 0; Groclin 3 Cracovia 1.
**May 3:** Katowice 1 Pogon 1; Lech 1 Odra 0.
**May 4:** Polonia 1 Amica 0; Gornik Z 0 Legia 0.

**POLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wisla K | 20 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 59 | 13 | 50 |
| Groclin | 20 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 39 | 22 | 38 |
| Legia | 20 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 25 | 15 | 34 |
| Cracovia | 20 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 26 | 18 | 31 |
| Amica | 20 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 22 | 30 |
| Gornik Z | 20 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 20 | 28 |
| Wisla P | 20 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| Polonia | 20 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 23 | 37 | 26 |
| Gornik L | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 29 | 31 | 25 |
| Zaglebie | 20 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 25 | 34 | 23 |
| Lech | 20 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 24 | 34 | 22 |
| Pogon | 20 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 24 | 36 | 22 |
| Odra | 20 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 19 | 30 | 18 |
| Katowice | 20 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 20 | 50 | 10 |

## PORTUGAL

**Friday, April 8**
**Maritimo 2** (Fernando 38, Ferreira 89)
**Nacional 1** (Adriano 49)

**Saturday, April 9**
**Boavista 1** (Cadu 52)
**FC Porto 0**

**Sunday, April 10**
**Penafiel 1** (Roberto 44)
**Moreirense 0**

**Rio Ave 1** (Miguelito 90)
**Benfica 0**

**Setubal 0**
**Gil Vicente 0**

**Sporting Lisbon 1** (Liedson 85)
**Beira Mar 0**

**Uniao Leiria 0**
**Guimaraes 1** (Marco Ferreira 72)

**Monday, April 11**
**Belenenses 0**
**Academica 0**

**Estoril 0**
**Sporting Braga 1** (Joao Tomas 17)

**Friday, April 15**
**Beira Mar 1** (Beto 75)
**Boavista 0**

**Saturday, April 16**
**Benfica 1** (Mantorras 90)
**Uniao Leiria 1** (Joao Paulo 17)

**FC Porto 2** (Helder Postiga 41, Ricardo Quaresma 59)
**Setubal 1** (Meyong 26)

**Sunday, April 17**
**Academica 4** (Marcel 9, Dario 45, 76, Sarmento 79)
**Penafiel 1** (Roberto 62)

**Gil Vicente 1** (Carlos Carneiro 64)
**Maritimo 0**

**Guimaraes 1** (Romeu 74)
**Estoril 0**

**Nacional 0**
**Rio Ave 0**

**Sporting Braga 2** (Jaime Junior 17, Joao Tomas 21)
**Belenenses 0**

**Monday, April 18**
**Moreirense 1** (Fernando 67)
**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Douala 32, Sa Pinto 71, Liedson 74)

**Friday, April 22**
**Belenenses 1** (Paulo Sergio 69)
**Guimaraes 0**

**Saturday, April 23**
**Boavista 1** (Helder Rosario 13)
**Moreirense 1** (Lito 64)

**Sporting Lisbon 0**
**Academica 0**

**Sunday, April 24**
**Beira Mar 0**
**FC Porto 1** (Ricardo Quaresma 90)

**Estoril 1** (Paulo Sousa 11)
**Benfica 2** (Luisao 76, Mantorras 82)

**Maritimo 3** (Eusebio 4, Manduca 29, Pena 68)
**Setubal 1** (Jorginho pen 84)

**Rio Ave 0**
**Gil Vicente 1** (Carlos Carneiro 43)

**Uniao Leiria 1** (Ferreira 58)
**Nacional 0**

**Monday, April 25**
**Penafiel 1** (N'Boye 75)
**Sporting Braga 0**

**Friday, April 29**
**Academica 1** (Luciano 36)
**Boavista 0**

**Saturday, April 30**
**Benfica 1** (Simao pen 69)
**Belenenses 0**

**Gil Vicente 1** (Carlitos 60)
**Uniao Leiria 1** (Edson 89)

**Moreirense 0**
**Beira Mar 0**

**Nacional 4** (Alexandre Goulart 23, 56, Adriano 88, Gouveia 90)
**Estoril 1** (Vargas 29)

**FC Porto 1** (McCarthy 27)
**Maritimo 0**

**Setubal 2** (Ricardo Chaves 17, Meyong 41)
**Rio Ave 0**

**Sunday, May 1**
**Sporting Braga 0**
**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Pinilla 56, 62, 79)

**Monday, May 2**
**Guimaraes 2** (Dragoner pen 10, Marco Ferreira 77)
**Penafiel 1** (Roberto 15)

**PORTUGAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benfica | 31 | 18 | 7 | 6 | 49 | 29 | 61 |
| Sporting Lisbon | 31 | 17 | 7 | 7 | 63 | 31 | 58 |
| FC Porto | 31 | 16 | 9 | 6 | 35 | 24 | 57 |
| Sporting Braga | 31 | 15 | 9 | 7 | 41 | 24 | 54 |
| Guimaraes | 31 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 34 | 26 | 50 |
| Boavista | 31 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 37 | 38 | 49 |
| Rio Ave | 31 | 9 | 16 | 6 | 32 | 33 | 43 |
| Belenenses | 31 | 12 | 6 | 13 | 37 | 33 | 42 |
| Maritimo | 31 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 36 | 32 | 42 |
| Setubal | 31 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 42 | 43 | 39 |
| Uniao Leiria | 31 | 8 | 14 | 9 | 29 | 29 | 38 |
| Nacional | 31 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 41 | 42 | 38 |
| Penafiel | 31 | 11 | 4 | 16 | 34 | 49 | 37 |
| Academica | 31 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 28 | 36 | 36 |
| Gil Vicente | 31 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 30 | 37 | 34 |
| Moreirense | 31 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 23 | 41 | 27 |
| Beira Mar | 31 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 27 | 53 | 27 |
| Estoril | 31 | 7 | 5 | 19 | 34 | 52 | 26 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
25 Liedson (Sporting Lisbon)
14 Simao Sabrosa (Benfica)
12 Antchouet (Belenenses)
12 Joao Tomas (Sporting Braga)

### PORTUGUESE CUP – semi-finals

**Apr 19:** Setubal 2 Boavista 1 (aet).
**Apr 20:** Estrela Amadora 0 Benfica 3.

## ROMANIA

**Apr 8:** Farul 2 Otelul 0; Poli Iasi 1 U Craiova 0.
**Apr 9:** Brasov 0 Poli Timisoara 1; Sportul 0 Arges 0; CFR Cluj 2 Apulum 1; National 3 Rapid 3.
**Apr 10:** Bacau 3 Gloria 0; Steaua 1 Dinamo 0.
**Apr 13:** Steaua 0 Rapid 0.
**Apr 15:** Arges 3 Poli Iasi 0.
**Apr 16:** Otelul 1 Poli Timisoara 0; Gloria 2 Brasov 0; Farul 1 Sportul 1; Dinamo 4 CFR Cluj 0.
**Apr 17:** U Craiova 0 Steaua 1; Rapid 2 Bacau 0; Apulum 0 National 1.
**Apr 22:** Bacau 0 Apulum 0; Brasov 0 Rapid 1.
**Apr 23:** Steaua 2 Arges 0; Sportul 3 Otelul 2; CFR Cluj 1 U Craiova 1.
**Apr 24:** Poli Iasi 2 Farul 2; Poli Timisoara 2 Gloria 1; National 5 Dinamo 1.
**Apr 27:** U Craiova 3 National 0; Sportul 1 Poli Iasi 1; Rapid 0 Poli Timisoara 3; Otelul 2 Gloria 1; Farul 1 Steaua 0; Dinamo 3 Bacau 0; Arges 2 CFR Cluj 0; Apulum 1 Brasov 0.
**Apr 30:** Steaua 1 Sportul 0; Poli Iasi 1 Otelul 0; Poli Timisoara 1 Apulum 1; National 2 Arges 1; Gloria 0 Rapid 2; Bacau 1 U Craiova 1; CFR Cluj 0 Farul 0; Brasov 1 Dinamo 1.
**May 4:** U Craiova 1 Brasov 3; Sportul 2 CFR Cluj 1; Rapid 3 Otelul 0; Poli Iasi 0 Steaua 0; Farul 2 National 1; Dinamo 1 Poli Timisoara 0; Arges 0 Bacau 0; Apulum 1 Gloria 1.

**ROMANIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steaua | 24 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 41 | 15 | 51 |
| Rapid | 24 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 40 | 22 | 47 |
| Dinamo | 24 | 15 | 1 | 8 | 44 | 27 | 46 |
| Farul | 24 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 33 | 21 | 43 |
| National | 24 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 40 | 30 | 39 |
| Sportul | 24 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 29 | 25 | 34 |
| Poli Timisoara | 24 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 31 | 32 | 34 |
| Otelul | 24 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 19 | 24 | 31 |
| CFR Cluj | 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 28 | 37 | 29 |
| Gloria | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 34 | 37 | 28 |
| Arges | 24 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 28 | 32 | 28 |
| Poli Iasi | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 22 | 35 | 28 |
| Bacau | 24 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 22 | 27 |
| Apulum | 24 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 22 | 45 | 22 |
| Brasov | 24 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 24 | 35 | 21 |
| U Craiova | 24 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 22 | 34 | 19 |

## RUSSIA

**Apr 9:** Dinamo 1 Saturn 0; Lokomotiv 1 Rubin 0.
**Apr 10:** Tom 2 Zenit 0; Terek 0 Torpedo 1; Alaniya 1 Shinnik 1; Rostov 0 Spartak 1; Amkar 0 FC Moscow 0; CSKA 5 Kryliya Sovetov 0.
**Apr 16:** Rubin 2 Amkar 0; FC Moscow 1 Rostov 0; Saturn 3 Alaniya 1; Shinnik 2 Terek 1; Torpedo 3 Tom 0; Kryliya Sovetov 0 Lokomotiv 0.
**Apr 17:** Spartak 5 Dinamo 1; Zenit 1 CSKA 0.
**Apr 23:** Tom 0 Shinnik 0; Terek 1 Saturn 0; Alaniya 2 Spartak 1; Dinamo 0 FC Moscow 2; Rubin 1 Rostov 1; Kryliya Sovetov 3 Zenit 0; Lokomotiv 1 Amkar 1.
**Apr 30:** Rubin 2 Dinamo 1; FC Moscow 1 Alaniya 0; Saturn 0 Tom 2; Torpedo 0 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Zenit 1 Lokomotiv 1.
**May 1:** Amkar 1 Rostov 0; Spartak 3 Terek 0.
**May 5:** Zenit 1 Torpedo 1.

**RUSSIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Torpedo | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 14 |
| Zenit | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 14 |
| FC Moscow | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 14 |
| Spartak | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 6 | 13 |
| Rubin | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 11 |
| Lokomotiv | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 11 |
| Saturn | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 10 |
| Dinamo | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 9 |
| Tom | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| Kryliya Sovetov | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| CSKA | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 8 |
| Shinnik | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Amkar | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Terek | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 14 | 6 |
| Alaniya | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 4 |
| Rostov | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 2 |

## SCOTLAND

**Saturday, April 9**
**Aberdeen 1** (Heikkinen 38)
**Motherwell 3** (McBride pen 22, Hamilton 32, McDonald 72) Att: 10,443

**Dundee 2** (Lovell pen 56, Sancho 62)
**Dunfermline 1** (Darren Young 9) Att: 5,995

**Kilmarnock 0**
**Inverness 1** (Wilson 32) Att: 4,862

**Tuesday, April 12**
**Inverness 1** (Bayne 20)
**Motherwell 0** Att: 3,746

**Rangers 0**
**Dundee Utd 1** (Duff 8) Att: 49,302

**Wednesday, April 13**
**Hearts 1** (Miller 40)
**Hibernian 2** (O'Connor 68, Shiels 73) Att: 17,676

**Livingston 0**
**Celtic 4** (Hartson 43, 75, pen 86, Varga 90) Att: 8,750

**Saturday, April 16**
**Celtic 3** (Varga 27, Hartson 51, Bellamy 57)
**Aberdeen 2** (Diamond 11, Mackie 14) Att: 59,998

**Dundee Utd 2** (Robson 37, Brebner 90)
**Hearts 1** (Miller 39) Att: 7,704

**Hibernian 0**
**Livingston 3** (Lilley 49, Kachloul 61, O'Brien 87) Att: 11,047

**Inverness 3** (McBain 17, Prunty 38, Brewster 65)
**Dundee 2** (McManus 74, Sutton 80) Att: 4,786

**Motherwell 1** (Combe og 86)
**Kilmarnock 1** (Leven 33) Att: 4,999

**Sunday, April 17**
**Dunfermline 0**
**Rangers 1** (Prso 7) Att: 8,266

**Saturday, April 23**
**Dundee Utd 1** (Crawford 37)
**Livingston 1** (Deloumeaux 61) Att: 7,687

**Dunfermline 0**
**Inverness 0** Att: 4,481

**Hibernian 2** (O'Connor 8, Riordan 63)
**Hearts 2** (Miller 23, Webster 88) Att: 16,620

**Kilmarnock 1** (Dargo 84)
**Dundee 0** Att: 3,770

**Motherwell 0**
**Aberdeen 1** (Mackie 34) Att: 5,063

**Sunday, April 24**
**Rangers 1** (Thompson 88)
**Celtic 2** (Petrov 21, Bellamy 34) Att: 49,593

**Saturday, April 30**
**Celtic 1** (Beattie 59)
**Hibernian 3** (O'Connor 7, Sproule 79, Scott Brown 81) Att: 58,322

**Dundee 1** (Lovell pen 64)
**Dundee Utd 2** (Wilson 52, McIntyre 70) Att: 11,263

**Hearts 0**
**Motherwell 0** Att: 10,337

**Inverness 1** (Tokely pen 28)
**Kilmarnock 2** (McDonald 21, Leven pen 72) Att: 3,108

**Livingston 2** (O'Brien 33, McPake 74)
**Dunfermline 0** Att: 5,700

**Sunday, May 1**
**Aberdeen 1** (Clark 33)
**Rangers 3** (Ferguson 10, Prso 43, 59) Att: 17,198

| SCOTLAND – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 35 | 28 | 2 | 5 | 80 | 32 | 86 |
| Rangers | 35 | 26 | 6 | 3 | 71 | 20 | 84 |
| Hibernian | 35 | 18 | 6 | 11 | 61 | 52 | 60 |
| Aberdeen | 35 | 16 | 7 | 12 | 40 | 36 | 55 |
| Hearts | 35 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 41 | 35 | 50 |
| Motherwell | 35 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 41 | 42 | 44 |

| RELEGATION GROUP | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inverness | 35 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 40 | 44 | 43 |
| Kilmarnock | 35 | 13 | 3 | 19 | 42 | 54 | 42 |
| Dundee Utd | 35 | 7 | 11 | 17 | 39 | 57 | 32 |
| Livingston | 35 | 8 | 7 | 20 | 32 | 58 | 31 |
| Dundee | 35 | 8 | 7 | 20 | 35 | 64 | 31 |
| Dunfermline | 35 | 6 | 10 | 19 | 28 | 56 | 28 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
23 John Hartson (Celtic)
19 Derek Riordan (Hibernian)
18 Nacho Novo (Rangers)
18 Dado Prso (Rangers)

## SCOTTISH CUP – semi-finals

**Apr 9:** Dundee Utd 2 Hibernian 1.
**Apr 10:** Hearts 1 Celtic 2.

## SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

**Apr 9:** Sutjeska 0 Obilic 0; Cukaricki 0 Zeleznik 2; Hajduk B 0 Red Star 4; Hajduk K 2 Radnicki NB 1; Partizan 1 Buducnost P 0; Smederevo 1 Borac 4; Zemun 0 Vojvodina 0; Zeta 2 OFK 0.
**Apr 16:** Borac 0 Zemun 0; Buducnost P 1 Hajduk K 1; Obilic 0 Partizan 4; OFK 6 Hajduk B 0; Red Star 5 Cukaricki 0; Vojvodina 2 Zeta 2; Zeleznik 1 Sutjeska 0.
**Apr 17:** Radnicki NB 0 Smederevo 2.
**Apr 20:** Cukaricki 1 OFK 1; Hajduk B 0 Vojvodina 1; Hajduk K 0 Obilic 0; Radnicki NB 1 Borac 0; Smederevo 2 Buducnost P 1; Sutjeska 1 Red Star 2; Zeta 2 Zemun 1; Partizan 4 Zeleznik 1.
**Apr 23:** Zeleznik 2 Hajduk K 1; Borac 0 Zeta 2; Buducnost P 1 Radnicki NB 0; Red Star 1 Partizan 1; Zemun 2 Hajduk B 1; Obilic 1 Smederevo 0; Vojvodina 1 Cukaricki 0; OFK 2 Sutjeska 0.
**Apr 30:** Hajduk B 1 Zeta 2; Cukaricki 2 Zemun 1; Sutjeska 1 Vojvodina 1; Hajduk K 0 Red Star 1; Partizan 3 OFK 2; Smederevo 0 Zeleznik 2; Buducnost P 1 Borac 2.
**May 1:** Radnicki NB 1 Obilic 0.
**May 4:** Zeta 2 Cukaricki 0; Borac 2 Hajduk B 0; Obilic 4 Buducnost P 2; Zeleznik 3 Radnicki NB 2; Red Star 1 Smederevo 1; OFK 4 Hajduk K 1; Zemun 1 Sutjeska 0; Vojvodina 1 Partizan 3.

| SERBIA & MONTENEGRO | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partizan | 26 | 23 | 3 | 0 | 68 | 16 | 72 |
| Red Star | 26 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 60 | 15 | 65 |
| Zeta | 25 | 17 | 3 | 5 | 44 | 21 | 54 |
| OFK | 26 | 14 | 2 | 10 | 46 | 29 | 44 |
| Zemun | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 26 | 29 | 37 |
| Buducnost P | 26 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 33 | 34 | 34 |
| Radnicki NB | 26 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 29 | 30 | 34 |
| Vojvodina | 26 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 26 | 33 | 31 |
| Zeleznik | 26 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 30 | 38 | 31 |
| Hajduk K | 26 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 26 | 32 | 30 |
| Borac | 26 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 25 | 35 | 30 |
| Smederevo | 26 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 22 | 32 | 30 |
| Obilic | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 25 | 37 | 30 |
| Cukaricki | 26 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 22 | 37 | 24 |
| Sutjeska | 26 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 16 | 36 | 22 |
| Hajduk B | 26 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 15 | 59 | 9 |

## SPAIN

**Saturday, April 9**
**Athletic Bilbao 3** (Riesgo og 36, Yeste 75, Tiko 90)
**Real Sociedad 0** Att: 40,000

**Numancia 1** (Miguel 87)
**Atletico Madrid 0** Att: 9,700

**Sunday, April 10**
**Betis 2** (Edu 11, Ricardo Oliveira 31)
**Levante 2** (Rivera 25, Juanma 67) Att: 30,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Luque 64)
**Villarreal 1** (Arzo 86) Att: 20,000

**Espanyol 1** (Jonathan 73)
**Sevilla 3** (Jordi 9, Julio Baptista 17, Daniel Alves 90) Att: 26,555

**Getafe 1** (Vivar Dorado 65)
**Albacete 0** Att: 14,000

**Mallorca 0**
**Zaragoza 2** (Savio 56, Villa 86) Att: 10,000

**Osasuna 1** (Webo 48)
**Racing Santander 0** Att: 17,814

**Real Madrid 4** (Zidane 7, Ronaldo 20, Raul 45, Owen 65)
**Barcelona 2** (Eto'o 29, Ronaldinho 73) Att: 75,000

**Valencia 2** (Di Vaio 19, 44)
**Malaga 2** (Fernando Baiano 34, Duda 90) Att: 45,000

**Saturday, April 16**
**Atletico Madrid 0**
**Espanyol 0** Att: 45,000

**Real Sociedad 1** (Uranga 16)
**Deportivo La Coruna 0** Att: 16,000

**Sevilla 0**
**Osasuna 1** (Morales 25) Att: 35,000

**Sunday, April 17**
**Albacete 1** (Pacheco 67)
**Malaga 2** (Duda 53, Amoroso pen 83) Att: 8,000

**Barcelona 2** (Ronaldinho 30, Giuly 56)
**Getafe 0** Att: 68,946

**Levante 0**
**Real Madrid 2** (Ronaldo 37, 83) Att: 19,129

**Mallorca 0**
**Valencia 0** Att: 14,000

**Racing Santander 0**
**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Orbaiz pen 90, Tiko 90) Att: 16,517

**Villarreal 0**
**Betis 0** Att: 21,000

**Zaragoza 4** (Villa 65, 71, Ponzio 79, Savio 83)
**Numancia 1** (Cani og 67) Att: 33,000

**Saturday, April 23**
**Osasuna 1** (Aloisi 4)
**Atletico Madrid 0** Att: 16,254

**Real Madrid 2** (Ronaldo 69, Michel Salgado 73)
**Villarreal 1** (Riquelme pen 39) Att: 80,000

**Sunday, April 24**
**Athletic Bilbao 1** (Guerrero 87)
**Sevilla 3** (Julio Baptista 7, 76, Jesus Navas 21) Att: 30,000

**Betis 2** (Joaquin 47, Ricardo Oliveira 52)
**Real Sociedad 3** (Labaka 5, Barkero 66, Uranga 89) Att: 35,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Luque 23)
**Racing Santander 4** (Benayoun 57, 63, 84, Javi Guerrero 70) Att: 18,000

**Espanyol 3** (Tamudo 34, 90, Maxi Rodriguez 43)
**Zaragoza 1** (Villa 60) Att: 30,195

**Getafe 1** (Michel 20)
**Levante 0** Att: 13,000

**Malaga 0**
**Barcelona 4** (Oleguer 21, Giuly 34, 67, Gerard 90) Att: 23,000

**Numancia 1** (Merino 80)
**Mallorca 2** (Victor 54, Iuliano 59) Att: 7,000

**Valencia 2** (Mista 70, Angulo 76)
**Albacete 0** Att: 40,000

**Thursday, April 28**
**Osasuna 3** (Webo 40, Ortiz 67, Aloisi 90)
**Villarreal 2** (Marcos Senna 7, Sorin 73) Att: 13,821

**Saturday, April 30**
**Atletico Madrid 1** (Colsa 78)
**Athletic Bilbao 1** (Etxeberria 66) Att: 50,000

**Numancia 1** (Tevenet 76)
**Valencia 1** (Vicente pen 82) Att: 8,000

**Real Sociedad 0**
**Real Madrid 2** (Ronaldo 83, 90) Att: 26,588

**Sunday, May 1**
**Barcelona 2** (Eto'o 66, Messi 90)
**Albacete 0** Att: 91,174

**Levante 0**
**Malaga 1** (Fernando Baiano 38) Att: 15,198

**Mallorca 3** (Campano 50, 81, Arango 70)
**Espanyol 2** (Ibarra 9, Maxi Rodriguez 90) Att: 10,000

**Racing Santander 1** (Benayoun 61)
**Betis 1** (Dani 80) Att: 14,352

**Sevilla 2** (Adriano Correia 13, Jesus Navas 20)
**Deportivo La Coruna 0** Att: 38,000

**Villarreal 4** (Sorin 13, Forlan 17, 52, Santi Cazorla 46)
**Getafe 0** Att: 21,000

**Zaragoza 5** (Villa 11, 85, Savio 40, Oscar 60, Generelo 63)
**Osasuna 1** (Moha 67) Att: 28,000

### SPAIN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 34 | 24 | 6 | 4 | 67 | 25 | 78 |
| Real Madrid | 34 | 23 | 3 | 8 | 61 | 29 | 72 |
| Sevilla | 34 | 17 | 7 | 10 | 42 | 36 | 58 |
| Villarreal | 34 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 59 | 33 | 55 |
| Valencia | 34 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 51 | 35 | 53 |
| Espanyol | 34 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 46 | 43 | 53 |
| Betis | 34 | 13 | 13 | 8 | 55 | 46 | 52 |
| Zaragoza | 34 | 14 | 7 | 13 | 47 | 47 | 49 |
| Atletico Madrid | 34 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 37 | 28 | 48 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 34 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 54 | 46 | 48 |
| Dep La Coruna | 34 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 41 | 44 | 46 |
| Real Sociedad | 34 | 13 | 6 | 15 | 44 | 49 | 45 |
| Osasuna | 34 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 42 | 60 | 43 |
| Getafe | 34 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 33 | 42 | 42 |
| Malaga | 34 | 12 | 6 | 16 | 33 | 45 | 42 |
| R Santander | 34 | 10 | 8 | 16 | 38 | 50 | 38 |
| Levante | 34 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 36 | 50 | 35 |
| Mallorca | 34 | 8 | 7 | 19 | 33 | 58 | 31 |
| Albacete | 34 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 28 | 51 | 24 |
| Numancia | 34 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 25 | 55 | 24 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
22 Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona)
20 Diego Forlan (Villarreal)
18 Ricardo Oliveira (Betis)
18 Ronaldo (Real Madrid)

### SPANISH CUP – semi-finals, 1st legs

**Apr 20:** Osasuna 1 Atletico Madrid 0.
**Apr 21:** Betis 0 Athletic Bilbao 0.

## SWEDEN

**Apr 9:** Helsingborgs 2 Halmstads 0.
**Apr 10:** Kalmar 1 Gefle 0; Malmo 1 IFK Gothenburg 2.
**Apr 11:** Sundsvall 3 Elfsborg 1; Orgryte 2 Landskrona 1; Djurgardens 2 Hacken 1.
**Apr 12:** Assyriska 1 Hammarby 2.
**Apr 17:** Elfsborg 1 Orgryte 0; Landskrona 0 Malmo 1; IFK Gothenburg 0 Assyriska 3.
**Apr 18:** Hacken 1 Sundsvall 0; Hammarby 0 Kalmar 0; Halmstads 3 Djurgardens 1.
**Apr 19:** Gefle 1 Helsingborgs 2.
**Apr 24:** Assyriska 0 Halmstads 0; Sundsvall 2 Landskrona 2; Malmo 3 Gefle 0.
**Apr 25:** Helsingborgs 3 Elfsborg 0; Djurgardens 2 Orgryte 2; Kalmar 2 Hacken 0.
**Apr 26:** IFK Gothenburg 1 Hammarby 0.
**May 1:** Gefle 1 Assyriska 0; Orgryte 4 Sundsvall 1; Halmstads 0 Kalmar 1.
**May 2:** Hacken 3 Helsingborgs 0; Elfsborg 1 Djurgardens 2; Landskrona 1 IFK Gothenburg 1.
**May 3:** Hammarby 1 Malmo 1.

### SWEDEN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kalmar | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 10 |
| Helsingborgs | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| Orgryte | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| Malmo | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| Djurgardens | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| IFK Gothenburg | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Hacken | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Hammarby | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Assyriska | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Halmstads | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Sundsvall | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| Gefle | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Elfsborg | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| Landskrona | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 |

## SWITZERLAND

**Apr 9:** Aarau 1 Thun 7.
**Apr 10:** Zurich 1 Grasshopper 1; Young Boys 2 Basle 5.
**Apr 13:** Neuchatel Xamax 0 Schaffhausen 1.
**Apr 14:** Young Boys 2 Thun 4; Zurich 0 St Gallen 2.
**Apr 17:** Thun 5 Aarau 0; Grasshopper 1 Zurich 1; Basle 1 Young Boys 1; Schaffhausen 2 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
**Apr 20:** Aarau 0 Basle 5; Schaffhausen 2 Grasshopper 2.
**Apr 23:** St Gallen 2 Young Boys 2; Grasshopper 1 Aarau 1.
**Apr 24:** Basle 3 Zurich 2; Thun 4 Schaffhausen 0.
**Apr 27:** Neuchatel Xamax 2 St Gallen 1; Thun 5 Zurich 1; Young Boys 1 Aarau 1.
**Apr 30:** Aarau 3 St Gallen 1.
**May 1:** Neuchatel Xamax 0 Young Boys 1; Schaffhausen 0 Basle 2; Thun 2 Grasshopper 5.
**May 4:** Schaffhausen 1 Aarau 1; Neuchatel Xamax 0 Basle 4; St Gallen 1 Thun 2.

### SWITZERLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basle | 30 | 18 | 7 | 5 | 71 | 39 | 61 |
| Thun | 29 | 17 | 4 | 8 | 61 | 30 | 55 |
| Grasshopper | 30 | 10 | 13 | 7 | 40 | 42 | 43 |
| Young Boys | 29 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 50 | 46 | 40 |
| Zurich | 29 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 43 | 50 | 38 |
| Neuchatel X | 28 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 33 | 36 | 36 |
| St Gallen | 29 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 40 | 50 | 31 |
| Aarau | 30 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 40 | 59 | 30 |
| Schaffhausen | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 31 | 53 | 25 |

## TURKEY

**Apr 8:** Besiktas 4 Ankaragucu 1.
**Apr 9:** Sebatspor 0 Kayserispor 0; Ankaraspor 3 Diyarbakirspor 0; Malatyaspor 2 Istanbulspor 0; Sakaryaspor 0 Fenerbahce 1.
**Apr 10:** Denizlispor 3 Rizespor 0; Gaziantepspor 2 Konyaspor 0; Genclerbirligi 0 Samsunspor 0; Galatasaray 0 Trabzonspor 2.
**Apr 15:** Diyarbakirspor 0 Trabzonspor 1.
**Apr 16:** Sebatspor 1 Galatasaray 3; Konyaspor 2 Sakaryaspor 0; Samsunspor 4 Denizlispor 0; Kayserispor 1 Malatyaspor 1.
**Apr 17:** Ankaragucu 2 Ankaraspor 5; Istanbulspor 1 Genclerbirligi 3; Rizespor 1 Gaziantepspor 1; Fenerbahce 3 Besiktas 4.
**Apr 23:** Besiktas 2 Konyaspor 1; Malatyaspor 2 Sebatspor 2; Genclerbirligi 0 Kayserispor 0; Gaziantepspor 1 Samsunspor 3.
**Apr 24:** Galatasaray 1 Diyarbakirspor 0; Trabzonspor 3 Ankaragucu 1; Denizlispor 2 Istanbulspor 2; Ankaraspor 0 Fenerbahce 1; Sakaryaspor 3 Rizespor 1.
**Apr 29:** Rizespor 0 Besiktas 1; Istanbulspor 1 Gaziantepspor 3.
**Apr 30:** Fenerbahce 2 Trabzonspor 1; Ankaragucu 4 Diyarbakirspor 1; Samsunspor 1 Sakaryaspor 1; Kayserispor 1 Denizlispor 0; Sebatspor 0 Genclerbirligi 5.
**May 1:** Malatyaspor 0 Galatasaray 1; Konyaspor 2 Ankaraspor 3.

### TURKEY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fenerbahce | 30 | 24 | 2 | 4 | 72 | 19 | 74 |
| Galatasaray | 30 | 22 | 4 | 4 | 57 | 21 | 70 |
| Trabzonspor | 30 | 20 | 5 | 5 | 59 | 26 | 65 |
| Besiktas | 30 | 18 | 7 | 5 | 62 | 34 | 61 |
| Denizlispor | 30 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 39 | 36 | 44 |
| Rizespor | 30 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 33 | 31 | 42 |
| Genclerbirligi | 30 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 42 | 35 | 41 |
| Gaziantepspor | 30 | 12 | 5 | 13 | 43 | 46 | 41 |
| Ankaraspor | 30 | 11 | 7 | 12 | 48 | 46 | 40 |
| Malatyaspor | 30 | 11 | 6 | 13 | 35 | 40 | 39 |
| Konyaspor | 30 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 53 | 54 | 38 |
| Samsunspor | 30 | 10 | 7 | 13 | 40 | 49 | 37 |
| Ankaragucu | 30 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 32 | 57 | 31 |
| Diyarbakirspor | 30 | 8 | 6 | 16 | 28 | 48 | 30 |
| Sakaryaspor | 30 | 8 | 5 | 17 | 44 | 62 | 29 |
| Kayserispor | 30 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 37 | 61 | 27 |
| Istanbulspor | 30 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 26 | 49 | 23 |
| Sebatspor | 30 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 32 | 68 | 15 |

## UKRAINE

**Apr 9:** Arsenal 1 Volyn 2.
**Apr 10:** Metalist 0 Shakhtar 1; Metalurh Z 0 Illichivets 2; Vorskla 0 Chornomorets 0; Kryvbas 0 Tavriya 2; Borysfen 0 Dynamo 0; Obolon 0 Zakarpattya 0; Metalurh D 2 Dnipro 1.
**Apr 16:** Zakarpattya 2 Arsenal 0; Tavriya 1 Dnipro 1; Kryvbas 3 Metalist 1; Volyn 2 Metalurh Z 2; Illichivets 1 Borysfen 0; Chornomorets 1 Metalurh D 0; Shakhtar 5 Obolon 2; Dynamo 1 Vorskla 0.
**Apr 24:** Metalist 1 Tavriya 1; Metalurh Z 1 Zakarpattya 0; Vorskla 1 Illichivets 2; Borysfen 1 Volyn 0.
**Apr 25:** Arsenal 1 Shakhtar 1; Metalurh D 1 Dynamo 2; Dnipro 1 Chornomorets 0.
**Apr 26:** Obolon 0 Kryvbas 1.
**Apr 30:** Zakarpattya 1 Borysfen 0; Metalist 0 Obolon 1; Tavriya 2 Chornomorets 2; Kryvbas 0 Arsenal 3; Volyn 1 Vorskla 1; Illichivets 3 Metalurh D 0; Shakhtar 2 Metalurh Z 1; Dynamo 2 Dnipro 0.

### UKRAINE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shakhtar | 23 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 49 | 15 | 61 |
| Dynamo | 24 | 18 | 4 | 2 | 46 | 11 | 58 |
| Metalurh D | 24 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 30 | 28 | 40 |
| Volyn | 24 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 32 | 27 | 39 |
| Chornomorets | 24 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 24 | 18 | 38 |
| Illichivets | 24 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 35 | 26 | 38 |
| Dnipro | 23 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 30 | 26 | 37 |
| Tavriya | 24 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 23 | 23 | 29 |
| Kryvbas | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 28 |
| Metalist | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 22 | 32 | 26 |
| Arsenal | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 23 | 29 | 26 |
| Metalurh Z | 23 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 18 | 27 | 24 |
| Vorskla | 24 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 12 | 29 | 21 |
| Zakarpattya | 23 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 23 | 20 |
| Borysfen | 24 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 24 | 18 |
| Obolon | 24 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 14 | 37 | 16 |

## WALES

### WALES – FINAL

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TNS | 34 | 23 | 9 | 2 | 83 | 25 | 78 |
| Rhyl | 34 | 23 | 5 | 6 | 70 | 31 | 74 |
| Bangor | 34 | 20 | 7 | 7 | 73 | 44 | 67 |
| Haverfordwest | 34 | 17 | 12 | 5 | 50 | 28 | 63 |
| Caersws | 34 | 19 | 5 | 10 | 67 | 39 | 62 |
| Carmarthen | 34 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 60 | 34 | 61 |
| Cwmbran | 34 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 52 | 47 | 53 |
| Aberystwyth | 34 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 45 | 40 | 53 |
| Welshpool | 34 | 14 | 9 | 11 | 55 | 46 | 51 |
| Newtown | 34 | 13 | 7 | 14 | 49 | 55 | 46 |
| Porthmadog | 34 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 38 | 39 | 45 |
| Connah's Quay | 34 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 48 | 58 | 36 |
| Port Talbot | 34 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 36 | 49 | 29 |
| Llanelli | 34 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 42 | 85 | 29 |
| Caernarfon | 34 | 7 | 7 | 20 | 29 | 72 | 28 |
| Airbus UK | 34 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 36 | 76 | 24 |
| N Cefn Druids | 34 | 5 | 7 | 22 | 30 | 72 | 22 |
| Afan Lido* | 34 | 6 | 6 | 22 | 29 | 52 | 21 |

**3pts deducted for fielding ineligible player*

# SOUTH AMERICA

## LIBERTADORES CUP

**Group 1**

*Apr 14 - Curitiba*
**Atletico Paranaense (Bra) 2** (Fabricio 40, Lima 89)
**America (Col) 1** (Banguero 45)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)

*Apr 20 - Asuncion*
**Libertad (Par) 1** (Blanco 90)
**Atletico Paranaense 2** (Marques 59, Maciel 70)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
*Sent off: Alan Bahia (Paranaense) 39min; Oviedo (Libertad) 45min*

*Apr 26 - Medellin*
**Independiente Medellin (Col) 2** (Alvarez 35, A Gonzalez og 61)
**America 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Paneso (Col)

### GROUP 1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| At Paranaense | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| America | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| Indep Medellin | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| Libertad | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 3 |

**May 10:** Atletico Paranaense v Independiente Medellin; America v Libertad.

**Group 2**

*Apr 12 - La Paz*
**Bolivar (Bol) 2** (Cafu og 15, Gutierrez 63)
**Danubio (Uru) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

*Apr 20 - Montevideo*
**Danubio 1** (Pouso 53)
**Santos (Bra) 2** (Deivid 67, Risso og 85)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)
*Sent off: Cafu (Danubio) 79min*

*Apr 27 - La Paz*
**Bolivar 2** (Zermatten 19, Gutierrez 33)
**LDU Quito (Ecu) 2** (Espinola 56, Palacios 63)
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Duque (Col)
*Sent off: Sandy (Bolivar) 85min*

### GROUP 2

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Santos | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 9 |
| Bolivar | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| LDU Quito | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Danubio | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 6 |

**May 11:** Santos v Bolivar; LDU Quito v Danubio.

**Group 3**

*Apr 13 - La Paz*
**The Strongest (Bol) 0**
**Universidad de Chile (Chl) 0**
**Ref:** Torres (Par)

*Apr 13 - Sao Paulo*
**Sao Paulo (Bra) 3** (Tardelli 32, 54, Cicinho 83)
**Quilmes (Arg) 1** (Rueda 56)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)
*Sent off: Grafite (Sao Paulo) 45min; Arano (Quilmes) 45min*

*Apr 21 - Santiago*
**Universidad de Chile 1** (Gioino 47)
**Sao Paulo 1** (Luizao 27)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

*Apr 28 - La Paz*
**The Strongest 2** (Tufino 36, Desabato og 49)
**Quilmes 1** (Alayes 44)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)

### GROUP 3

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sao Paulo | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 9 | 9 |
| U de Chile | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| The Strongest | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Quilmes | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 4 |

**May 11:** Sao Paulo v The Strongest; Quilmes v Universidad de Chile.

**Group 4**

*Apr 19 - Santo Andre*
**Santo Andre (Bra) 2** (Fernando 19, Rodrigao 88)
**Palmeiras (Bra) 1** (Osmar 37)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)

*Apr 19 - San Cristobal*
**Deportivo Tachira (Ven) 0**
**Cerro Porteno (Par) 3** (S Salcedo 18, 43, Achucarro 69)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
*Sent off: Alvarado (Tachira) 74min*

*Apr 28 - Asuncion*
**Cerro Porteno 1** (S Salcedo 58)
**Santo Andre 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)

*May 4 - San Cristobal*
**Deportivo Tachira 1** (Boada 26)
**Palmeiras 2** (Osmar 21, Ricardinho 36)
**HT:** 1-2. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)

**GROUP 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cerro Porteno | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 11 |
| Palmeiras | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| Santo Andre | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Dep Tachira | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 3 |

**May 12:** Santo Andre v Deportivo Tachira; Palmeiras v Cerro Porteno.

**Group 5**

*Apr 19 - Riobamba*
**Olmedo (Ecu) 3** (L Caicedo 5, Hurtado 65, Gomez 70)
**Atletico Junior (Col) 1** (Acuna 74)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Pozo (Chl)

*Apr 21 - Montevideo*
**Nacional (Uru) 1** (G Mendez 4)
**River Plate (Arg) 3** (Ahumada 33, Sand 63, J Mendez 77)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Souza (Bra)
*Sent off: Romero 44min, G Mendez 88min (both Nacional); Ameli (River) 44min*

*May 3 - Buenos Aires*
**River Plate 1** (Sand 40)
**Olmedo 1** (Zandona 77)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)

*May 3 - Barranquilla*
**Atletico Junior 3** (Arzuaga 18, 90, Palacio pen 86)
**Nacional 2** (Castro 14, Albin 83)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)

**GROUP 5 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| River Plate | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 5 | 16 |
| At Junior | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Olmedo | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 7 |
| Nacional | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 3 |

**Group 6**

*Apr 12 - Lima*
**Alianza Lima (Per) 0**
**Banfield (Arg) 1** (Barijho 51)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)

*Apr 13 - Caracas*
**Caracas (Ven) 2** (Carpintero 1, 21)
**Tigres (Mex) 5** (Nunez 9, 35, Soares 65, 87, De Nigris 81)
**HT:** 2-2. **Ref:** Paneso (Col)

*May 3 - Buenos Aires*
**Banfield 3** (Fernandez 19, Ceballos 58, Bilos 62)
**Caracas 1** (Garcia 77)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Silvera (Uru)

*May 3 - Monterrey*
**Tigres 0**
**Alianza Lima 0**
**Ref:** Manzur (Ven)

**GROUP 6 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tigres | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 5 | 12 |
| Banfield | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 11 |
| Alianza Lima | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| Caracas | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 4 |

**Group 7**

*Apr 12 - Manizales*
**Once Caldas (Col) 4** (Soto 1, T Moreno 4, Viafara 20, Fabbro 36)
**Guadalajara (Mex) 2** (J Garcia 40, Bravo 79)
**HT:** 4-1. **Ref:** Garay (Per)

*Apr 26 - Calama*
**Cobreloa (Chl) 2** (Diaz 2, 34)
**San Lorenzo (Arg) 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)
*Sent off: Garcia (San Lorenzo) 31min*

*May 5 - Buenos Aires*
**San Lorenzo 0**
**Once Caldas 1** (Viafara 44)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Gamboa (Bol)
*Sent off: Pereyra (San Lorenzo) 77min*

*May 5 - Guadalajara*
**Guadalajara 3** (Morales 47, Bautista pen 59, 67)
**Cobreloa 1** (Diaz 68)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Brazenas (Arg)

**GROUP 7 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guadalajara | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 11 |
| Once Caldas | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| Cobreloa | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| San Lorenzo | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 |

**Group 8**

*Apr 14 - Cuenca*
**Deportivo Cuenca (Ecu) 2** (Calderon 12, 39)
**Sporting Cristal (Per) 2** (Fleitas og 52, Prado 80)
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)

*Apr 27 - Lima*
**Sporting Cristal 0**
**Boca Juniors (Arg) 3** (Ledesma 12, Delgado 29, Palermo 44)
**HT:** 0-3. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)

*Apr 27 - Cuenca*
**Deportivo Cuenca 1** (Carnero 9)
**Pachuca (Mex) 1** (Chitiva 64)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)
*Sent off: Godines (Pachuca) 27min; Noriega (Cuenca) 45min*

*May 4 - Pachuca*
**Pachuca 2** (Santana 4, Borgetti 37)
**Sporting Cristal 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Brand (Ven)
*Sent off: Zegarra (Sporting Cristal) 67min*

*May 4 - Buenos Aires*
**Boca Juniors 3** (Guglielminpietro 36, 42, Palermo 40)
**Deportivo Cuenca 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)
*Sent off: Corozo (Cuenca) 18min*

**GROUP 8 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boca Juniors | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 3 | 13 |
| Pachuca | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Sporting Cristal | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 7 |
| Dep Cuenca | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 3 |

*Top two from each group qualify for knockout stages*

## ARGENTINA

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Friday, April 8**
**Arsenal 0**
**Estudiantes 0**

**Saturday, April 9**
**Gimnasia LP 2** (Licht 15, Valenti 26)
**Velez Sarsfield 4** (Zarate 23, 89, Cubero 63, Gracian 71)

**Lanus 2** (Paletta og 20, Roman Diaz 48)
**Banfield 4** (Galarza 23, San Martin 38, Ceballos 67, 76)

**Quilmes 1** (Bastianini 66)
**Instituto 2** (Castro 28, 59)

**Sunday, April 10**
**Almagro 2** (Gonzalez 26, Nieto 74)
**Argentinos Juniors 0**

**Boca Juniors 4** (Palermo 17, pen 40, Palacio 49, 59)
**Rosario Central 1** (Villa 22)

**Newell's Old Boys 4** (Belluschi 50, 90, Capria 52, Ortega pen 65)
**River Plate 2** (Farias 8, 13)

**Olimpo 3** (Estevez 21, Paez 44, Delorte 63)
**Huracan 1** (Caggiano 33)

**Racing Club 3** (Falcon 10, Guerrero 73, Lopez 82)
**Independiente 1** (Frutos 27)

**San Lorenzo 0**
**Colon Santa Fe 0**

**Friday, April 15**
**Rosario Central 2** (Monges 14, Gentiletti og 61)
**Gimnasia LP 1** (Vargas 90)

**Saturday, April 16**
**Argentinos Juniors 0**
**Lanus 2** (Fabbiani 57, 65)

**Racing Club 1** (Lopez 84)
**Arsenal 0**

**Sunday, April 17**
**Banfield 1** (Cervera 40)
**San Lorenzo 0**

**Colon Santa Fe 1** (Villarreal 34)
**Olimpo 0**

**Estudiantes 3** (Pavone 49, 72, Caceres 59)
**Newell's Old Boys 2** (Scocco 12, Maidana 19)

**Huracan 2** (Caggiano 19, 89)
**Boca Juniors 4** (Palacio 12, Cagna 26, Guglielminpietro 36, Palermo 52)

**Instituto 3** (Barone 74, Lujambio 89, 90)
**Almagro 2** (Nieto 54, 64)

**River Plate 4** (Gonzalez 16, Gallardo 30, 35, Ameli 62)
**Quilmes 0**

**Velez Sarsfield 3** (Gracian 20, Zarate 42, Bravo 45)
**Independiente 1** (Insua 68)

**Friday, April 22**
**San Lorenzo 0**
**Argentinos Juniors 2** (Pisculichi 36, Marini 87)

**Saturday, April 23**
**Quilmes 1** (Osorio 67)
**Estudiantes 4** (Chatruc 22, Pavone 48, 56, Krupoviesa pen 76)

**Velez Sarsfield 2** (Castroman pen 28, Gracian 88)
**Racing Club 1** (Pinola pen 53)

**Sunday, April 24**
**Almagro 2** (Nieto 19, Rios 72)
**River Plate 5** (M Gallardo 2, 38, Dominguez 45, Farias 51, O Gallardo og 78)

**Boca Juniors 1** (Guglielminpietro 27)
**Colon Santa Fe 1** (Vargas 75)

**Gimnasia LP 2** (Enria 25, 59)
**Huracan 0**

**Independiente 2** (Eluchans 43, Frutos 82)
**Rosario Central 0**

**Lanus 4** (Gioda 47, Roman Diaz 50, Rodrigo Diaz pen 60, Ribonetto pen 80)
**Instituto 3** (Arrieta 53, Barone 74, Lujambio 87)

**Newell's Old Boys 0**
**Arsenal 0**

**Olimpo 2** (Galvan 69, Delorte 87)
**Banfield 0**

**Friday, April 29**
**Argentinos Juniors 0**
**Olimpo 0**

**Huracan 0**
**Independiente 1** (Frutos 42)

**Racing Club 3** (Cabral 38, Romero 64, 73)
**Newell's Old Boys 3** (Capria 62, Zapata 70, Ortega 84)

**Saturday, April 30**
**Arsenal 2** (Calderon 35, Denis 37)
**Quilmes 1** (Desabato 42)

**Banfield 3** (Azconzabal 5, Barijho 49, Bujan 56)
**Boca Juniors 2** (Schiavi 2, Guglielminpietro 54)

**Colon Santa Fe 1** (Estevez 63)
**Gimnasia LP 2** (Lobos 48, Valenti 86)

**Estudiantes 3** (Pavone 49, 53, Brana 84)
**Almagro 2** (Nieto 8, Gallardo 75)

**Instituto 1** (Castro 62)
**San Lorenzo 1** (Herrera 75)

**River Plate 1** (Salas 73)
**Lanus 1** (Diaz 51)

**Rosario Central 1** (Alemanno 85)
**Velez Sarsfield 1** (Castroman 90)

**ARGENTINA – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Estudiantes | 11 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 12 | 24 |
| River Plate | 11 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 26 | 15 | 23 |
| Velez Sarsfield | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 9 | 22 |
| Rosario Central | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 14 | 21 |
| Racing Club | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 11 | 20 |
| Lanus | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 20 | 18 |
| Boca Juniors | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 17 | 17 |
| Banfield | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 12 | 16 |
| Arsenal | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 16 |
| Colon Santa Fe | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 13 | 15 |
| Newell's OB | 11 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 17 | 14 | 15 |
| Olimpo | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 10 | 15 |
| Independiente | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 14 | 15 |
| Argentinos Jnrs | 11 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 13 |
| Quilmes | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 15 | 13 |
| Instituto | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 23 | 13 |
| Gimnasia LP | 11 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 12 |
| San Lorenzo | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 21 | 6 |
| Almagro | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 29 | 6 |
| Huracan | 11 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 23 | 3 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
14 Mariano Pavone (Estudiantes)
7 Ernesto Farias (River Plate)

## BOLIVIA

### TRANSITIONAL TOURNAMENT

**Apr 9:** La Paz 0 Real Potosi 1.
**Apr 10:** Aurora 2 Destroyers 0; San Jose 2 Bolivar 2; The Strongest 2 Oriente 0; Union Central 2 Jorge Wilstermann 4; Blooming 3 Iberoamericana 2.
**Apr 16:** Oriente 2 La Paz 1.
**Apr 17:** Iberoamericana 0 San Jose 2; Real Potosi 2 Blooming 1; Bolivar 0 Union Central 1; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Aurora 0; Destroyers 2 The Strongest 3.
**Apr 23:** La Paz 6 Destroyers 1.
**Apr 24:** The Strongest 2 Jorge Wilstermann 0; San Jose 3 Blooming 0; Aurora 1 Bolivar 1; Union Central 3 Iberoamericana 0; Oriente 3 Real Potosi 1.
**Apr 30:** Real Potosi 3 San Jose 3.
**May 1:** Destroyers 1 Oriente 3.
**May 2:** Iberoamericana 0 Aurora 3; Bolivar 0 The Strongest 0; Jorge Wilstermann 2 La Paz 1; Blooming 3 Union Central 2.

**BOLIVIA – TRANSITIONAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Strongest | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 6 | 17 |
| Oriente | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 17 |
| Bolivar | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 18 | 6 | 16 |
| San Jose | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 26 | 15 | 16 |
| Aurora | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 7 | 16 |
| J Wilstermann | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 7 | 16 |
| La Paz | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 13 |
| Blooming | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 19 | 13 |
| Real Potosi | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 9 |
| Union Central | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 19 | 6 |
| Iberoamericana | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 22 | 4 |
| Destroyers | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 12 | 30 | 4 |

## BRAZIL

**Apr 23:** Parana 0 Goias 2; Sao Caetano 2 Palmeiras 2; Flamengo 1 Cruzeiro 1; Atletico Mineiro 4 Figueirense 1.

**Apr 24:** Santos 4 Paysandu 1; Internacional 0 Botafogo 2; Fortaleza 0 Coritiba 1; Atletico Paranaense 0 Ponte Preta 1; Fluminense 2 Sao Paulo 1; Corinthians 2 Juventude 2; Brasiliense 2 Vasco da Gama 2.
**Apr 30:** Sao Paulo 1 Parana 1; Ponte Preta 3 Atletico Mineiro 3; Palmeiras 2 Brasiliense 1; Vasco da Gama 0 Fortaleza 0; Goias 0 Sao Caetano 0.
**May 1:** Juventude 1 Atletico Paranaense 0; Figueirense 0 Flamengo 1; Paysandu 1 Fluminense 2; Coritiba 2 Santos 3; Botafogo 3 Corinthians 1; Cruzeiro 3 Internacional 2.

**BRAZIL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Santos | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| Botafogo | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Fluminense | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| At Mineiro | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| Goias | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Cruzeiro | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Palmeiras | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Ponte Preta | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Juventude | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Flamengo | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Coritiba | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Vasco da Gama | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sao Caetano | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Brasiliense | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| Sao Paulo | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Fortaleza | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Corinthians | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Parana | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| At Paranaense | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Internacional | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Paysandu | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Figueirense | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

## CHILE

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Apr 8:** Coquimbo Unido 0 Rangers 0.
**Apr 9:** Cobreloa 1 San Felipe 1; Cobresal 1 U de Concepcion 0; U Catolica 2 Huachipato 0; Dep Concepcion 0 Audax Italiano 2; Dep Temuco 1 Union Espanola 2.
**Apr 10:** Colo Colo 1 U de Chile 1; Santiago Wanderers 1 Palestino 2; Dep Melipilla 0 Everton 3; Puerto Montt 3 Dep La Serena 0.
**Apr 13:** Union Espanola 1 Cobreloa 0.
**Apr 15:** Everton 1 Cobreloa 0.
**Apr 16:** Palestino 1 Colo Colo 0; Coquimbo Unido 0 U Catolica 3; Audax Italiano 3 Cobresal 2; Huachipato 3 Dep Melipilla 0; San Felipe 3 Dep Concepcion 1.
**Apr 17:** U de Chile 1 Dep La Serena 3; U de Concepcion 3 Dep Temuco 3; Rangers 0 Santiago Wanderers 2; Union Espanola 4 Puerto Montt 1.
**Apr 22:** Cobreloa 4 Coquimbo Unido 0; Cobresal 2 Everton 2.
**Apr 23:** Colo Colo 4 Union Espanola 2; U Catolica 5 U de Concepcion 2; Dep La Serena 1 Audax Italiano 1; San Felipe 1 Dep Temuco 0.
**Apr 24:** Dep Melipilla 1 U de Chile 1; Santiago Wanderers 2 Huachipato 0; Puerto Montt 1 Rangers 2; Dep Concepcion 2 Palestino 0.
**Apr 27:** U de Chile 1 Dep Concepcion 0.
**Apr 29:** Cobreloa 2 Cobresal 1; Dep Temuco 1 Dep La Serena 1; Everton 1 Dep Concepcion 1.
**Apr 30:** U de Chile 2 U Catolica 1; Rangers 3 Colo Colo 2; U de Concepcion 4 Puerto Montt 3; Audax Italiano 1 Dep Melipilla 3; Union Espanola 0 Santiago Wanderers 1; Huachipato 2 San Felipe 0; Coquimbo Unido 2 Palestino 1.

**CHILE – OPENING – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colo Colo | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 28 | 18 | 25 |
| Huachipato | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 25 |
| San Felipe | 15 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 20 | 14 |
| Audax Italiano | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 26 | 13 |
| Dep Melipilla | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 25 | 13 |

**GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cobreloa | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 21 | 24 |
| Dep La Serena | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 24 | 25 | 22 |
| Coq'bo Unido | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 16 | 22 | 22 |
| S Wanderers | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 22 | 24 | 19 |
| Puerto Montt | 15 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 23 | 25 | 16 |

**GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Union Espanola | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 25 | 24 | 20 |
| U Concepcion | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 21 | 22 | 19 |
| Dep Concepcion | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 17 | 18 |
| Palestino | 15 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 15 | 23 | 16 |
| Dep Temuco | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 19 | 25 | 14 |

**GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U Catolica | 15 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 31 | 9 | 37 |
| U de Chile | 15 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 13 | 30 |
| Cobresal | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 25 | 18 | 25 |
| Everton | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 21 | 23 |
| Rangers | 15 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 16 | 15 | 22 |

## COLOMBIA

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Apr 9:** Envigado 2 At Nacional 4.
**Apr 10:** Dep Cali 1 Tolima 2; Bucaramanga 2 Magdalena 1; At Junior 5 America 3; Chico 1 Once Caldas 1; At Huila 0 Indep Santa Fe 0; Millonarios 2 Dep Pasto 2; Pereira 1 Quindio 1; Indep Medellin 2 Real Cartagena 1.
**Apr 13:** Chico 2 At Junior 0.
**Apr 16:** At Nacional 2 Chico 0; Real Cartagena 3 At Junior 1.
**Apr 17:** Dep Pasto 0 Pereira 0; Quindio 0 Indep Medellin 0; Tolima 0 America 0; Once Caldas 1 At Huila 0; Dep Cali 2 Bucaramanga 0; Magdalena 1 Envigado 3; Indep Santa Fe 0 Millonarios 1.
**Apr 20:** Once Caldas 1 Dep Pasto 1; America 0 Dep Cali 0.
**Apr 23:** Millonarios 0 Once Caldas 3; America 2 Real Cartagena 1.
**Apr 24:** Bucaramanga 0 Tolima 0; Envigado 0 Dep Cali 0; Chico 1 Magdalena 0; At Huila 0 At Nacional 0; Pereira 0 Indep Santa Fe 1; Indep Medellin 2 Dep Pasto 1; At Junior 3 Quindio 1.
**Apr 27:** At Junior 2 Pereira 0.
**Apr 30:** Indep Santa Fe 2 Indep Medellin 1.
**May 1:** Tolima 1 Real Cartagena 2; Quindio 1 America 0; Dep Pasto 2 At Junior 1; Once Caldas 1 Pereira 0; At Nacional 1 Millonarios 1; Magdalena 0 At Huila 1; Dep Cali 1 Chico 0; Bucaramanga 0 Envigado 0.

**COLOMBIA – OPENING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| At Nacional | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 32 | 16 | 32 |
| Envigado | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 29 | 20 | 24 |
| Indep Santa Fe | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 24 |
| Dep Pasto | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 20 | 18 | 24 |
| Tolima | 15 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 18 | 12 | 23 |
| Once Caldas | 15 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 18 | 14 | 22 |
| At Junior | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 22 | 20 | 21 |
| Indep Medellin | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 20 | 21 |
| Dep Cali | 15 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 21 |
| At Huila | 15 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 9 | 21 |
| Real Cartagena | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 17 | 20 |
| America | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 23 | 17 |
| Millonarios | 15 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 21 | 28 | 17 |
| Bucaramanga | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 16 |
| Chico | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 18 | 15 |
| Magdalena | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Quindio | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 27 | 15 |
| Pereira | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 12 |

## ECUADOR

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Apr 10:** Dep Quito 3 El Nacional 3; Aucas 2 LDU Loja 2; Olmedo 3 Barcelona 1; Dep Quevedo 0 LDU Quito 1; Emelec 1 Dep Cuenca 1.
**Apr 15:** LDU Loja 2 Olmedo 1.
**Apr 17:** LDU Quito 1 Aucas 0; El Nacional 5 Emelec 2; Barcelona 1 Dep Quito 0; Dep Cuenca 2 Dep Quevedo 1.
**Apr 23:** Dep Quevedo 1 Dep Cuenca 2; Aucas 2 LDU Quito 3.
**Apr 24:** Dep Quito 5 Barcelona 0; Olmedo 0 LDU Loja 1; Emelec 2 El Nacional 0.
**May 1:** Barcelona 1 Olmedo 1; El Nacional 1 Dep Quito 1; LDU Quito 5 Dep Quevedo 0; Dep Cuenca 3 Emelec 0; LDU Loja 1 Aucas 1.

**ECUADOR – OPENING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LDU Quito | 11 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 30 | 14 | 26 |
| El Nacional | 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 26 | 15 | 20 |
| Dep Quito | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 11 | 17 |
| LDU Loja | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 21 | 16 |
| Barcelona | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 19 | 16 |
| Aucas | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| Dep Cuenca | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 18 | 15 |
| Olmedo | 11 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 20 | 9 |
| Emelec | 11 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 20 | 9 |
| Dep Quevedo | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 24 | 6 |

## PARAGUAY

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Apr 9:** Sportivo Luqueno 0 Nacional 0.
**Apr 10:** General Caballero 1 12 de Octubre 1; Libertad 1 Cerro Porteno 2; Tacuary 1 3 de Febrero 0.
**Apr 11:** Olimpia 0 Guarani 3.
**Apr 15:** Cerro Porteno 1 General Caballero 0.
**Apr 16:** 3 de Febrero 2 Libertad 1; Guarani 1 Sportivo Luqueno 0.
**Apr 17:** Nacional 3 Tacuary 1; 12 de Octubre 1 Olimpia 1.
**Apr 22:** Guarani 0 Nacional 0.
**Apr 23:** 12 de Octubre 4 Sportivo Luqueno 2.
**Apr 24:** 3 de Febrero 1 General Caballero 0; Cerro Porteno 5 Olimpia 0.
**Apr 25:** Tacuary 0 Libertad 0.
**Apr 29:** Guarani 2 12 de Octubre 1; Olimpia 0 3 de Febrero 2.
**Apr 30:** Nacional 0 Libertad 3; General Caballero 1 Tacuary 1.
**May 1:** Sportivo Luqueno 1 Cerro Porteno 1.

**PARAGUAY – OPENING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cerro Porteno | 11 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 22 | 6 | 27 |
| 3 de Febrero | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 8 | 18 |
| 12 de Octubre | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 16 |
| Tacuary | 11 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 15 |
| Guarani | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 15 | 14 |
| Nacional | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 14 |
| Libertad | 11 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 15 | 12 |
| Olimpia | 11 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 11 |
| Gen Caballero | 11 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| Sp Luqueno | 11 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 9 |

## PERU

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Apr 9:** At Universidad 1 Universidad SMP 0.
**Apr 10:** Alianza Atletico 1 Melgar 1; Cienciano 1 Sport Ancash 0; Union Huaral 1 Alianza Lima 1; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Universidad CV 1; Universitario 4 Sport Boys 1.
**Apr 15:** Sport Boys 1 Cienciano 0; Universidad SMP 1 Coronel Bolognesi 1.
**Apr 16:** Alianza Lima 1 At Universidad 1.
**Apr 17:** Sport Ancash 2 Union Huaral 1; Melgar 0 Universitario 2; Sporting Cristal 1 Alianza Atletico 1.
**Apr 20:** Cienciano 1 Melgar 0; Union Huaral 1 Sport Boys 0; At Universidad 1 Sport Ancash 0; Coronel Bolognesi 2 Alianza Lima 2; Universidad CV 0 Universidad SMP 0; Universitario 1 Sporting Cristal 0.
**Apr 23:** Sporting Cristal 1 Cienciano 2.
**Apr 24:** Sport Ancash 2 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Sport Boys 1 At Universidad 0; Melgar 2 Union Huaral 2; Alianza Atletico 0 Universitario 1; Alianza Lima 3 Universidad CV 1.
**Apr 30:** Union Huaral 1 Sporting Cristal 2; At Universidad 0 Melgar 0; Universidad SMP 1 Alianza Lima 1.
**May 1:** Cienciano 4 Alianza Atletico 1; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Sport Boys 1; Universidad CV 1 Sport Ancash 1.

**PERU – OPENING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cienciano | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 11 | 22 |
| Universitario | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 4 | 21 |
| Alianza Lima | 10 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 22 | 12 | 15 |
| Sporting Cristal | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 9 | 15 |
| At Universidad | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 15 |
| Union Huaral | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| Sport Ancash | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| Sport Boys | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 11 |
| Melgar | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| Univ CV | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 8 |
| Univ SMP | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| C Bolognesi | 9 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 5 |
| Alianza Atletico | 9 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 20 | 5 |

## URUGUAY

### TRANSITIONAL TOURNAMENT

**Apr 9:** Rocha 0 Penarol 1; Fenix 2 Danubio 0; Plaza 0 Cerrito 0.
**Apr 10:** Rentistas 1 Nacional 5; Dep Colonia 1 Liverpool 2; Miramar Misiones 1 River Plate 2; Defensor 2 Wanderers 2; Paysandu 2 Cerro 2; Rampla Juniors 1 Tacuarembo 2.
**Apr 16:** Danubio 1 Liverpool 1; Plaza 0 River Plate 3; Paysandu 1 Penarol 2.
**Apr 17:** Nacional 3 Dep Colonia 2; Rocha 1 Fenix 1; Wanderers 3 Rampla Juniors 1; Cerro 0 Miramar Misiones 3; Defensor 1 Tacuarembo 0; Rentistas 2 Cerrito 0.
**Apr 23:** Paysandu 1 Liverpool 3; Defensor 2 Cerro 2; Rampla Juniors 2 Penarol 2.
**Apr 24:** Tacuarembo 0 Nacional 1; Rentistas 3 River Plate 3; Miramar Misiones 1 Rocha 2; Fenix 4 Wanderers 4; Plaza 0 Danubio 2; Cerrito 0 Dep Colonia 1.
**Apr 29:** Defensor 1 Nacional 1.
**Apr 30:** Fenix 2 Liverpool 0; Dep Colonia 1 River Plate 1; Rocha 1 Rampla Juniors 0; Rentistas 5 Wanderers 1; Danubio 2 Cerro 0; Tacuarembo 1 Miramar Misiones 2; Cerrito 3 Penarol 0; Plaza 0 Paysandu 0.

**URUGUAY – TRANSITIONAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nacional | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 7 | 20 |
| Defensor | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 9 | 16 |
| Liverpool | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 16 |
| Fenix | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 9 | 15 |
| Rocha | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 15 |
| Danubio | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 8 | 14 |
| Penarol | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 11 | 13 |
| Cerrito | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 11 |
| River Plate | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 11 |
| Wanderers | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 19 | 11 |
| Rentistas | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 16 | 10 |
| M Misiones | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| Tacuarembo | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 10 |
| Dep Colonia | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 8 |
| Paysandu | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 4 |
| Rampla Jnrs | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 4 |
| Cerro | 8 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 18 | 3 |
| Plaza | 8 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 3 |

## VENEZUELA

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Apr 9:** Caracas 2 ItalMaracaibo 1.
**Apr 10:** Ital-Chacao 1 Dep Tachira 1; Trujillanos 2 Monagas 2; Estudiantes 0 Carabobo 1; Mineros Guayana 0 UA Maracaibo 0.
**Apr 13:** Monagas 2 UA Maracaibo 1.
**Apr 15:** Dep Tachira 0 Trujillanos 3.
**Apr 17:** Caracas 1 Mineros Guayana 0; Estudiantes 1 UA Maracaibo 0; Carabobo 1 Ital-Chacao 0; Monagas 2 ItalMaracaibo 1.
**Apr 20:** Caracas 2 Carabobo 2; ItalMaracaibo 0 Estudiantes 1; Trujillanos 2 Ital-Chacao 0.
**Apr 24:** Monagas 0 Caracas 1; Ital-Chacao 1 UA Maracaibo 2; Trujillanos 1 Carabobo 1; ItalMaracaibo 0 Dep Tachira 1; Estudiantes 2 Mineros Guayana 0.
**Apr 27:** Dep Tachira 0 UA Maracaibo 2.
**Apr 28:** Caracas 0 Estudiantes 1.
**May 1:** UA Maracaibo 0 Trujillanos 1; Mineros Guayana 5 Ital-Chacao 1; Carabobo 1 ItalMaracaibo 2; Dep Tachira 1 Monagas 1.

**VENEZUELA – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UA Maracaibo | 16 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 11 | 33 |
| Caracas | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 25 | 10 | 32 |
| Dep Tachira | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 17 | 28 |
| Monagas | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 25 | 29 | 22 |
| Estudiantes | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 17 | 21 |
| Mineros G'ana | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 22 | 22 | 20 |
| Carabobo | 16 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 19 | 19 |
| ItalMaracaibo | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 24 | 16 |
| Trujillanos | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 19 | 27 | 14 |
| Ital-Chacao | 16 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 26 | 11 |

# CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

## CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP

### Semi-finals, 2nd legs

**Apr 13:** Monterrey (Mex) 1 Saprissa (CR) 1 (aet) *Agg 3-3. Saprissa 5-3 on pens*; Pumas UNAM (Mex) 5 DC United (USA) 0 *Pumas 6-1 on agg.*

### Final, 1st leg

*May 4 - Ricardo Saprissa stadium, San Jose*
**Saprissa 2** (Bolanos 21, Badilla 43)
**Pumas UNAM 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Hall (USA)

## MEXICO

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Apr 9:** Toluca 1 Dorados 2; Veracruz 0 Atlas 0; Guadalajara 0 Jaguares 2; Necaxa 1 Tecos UAG 0.
**Apr 10:** Pumas UNAM 1 Puebla 0; Atlante 3 Santos 0; Morelia 1 Monterrey 2; Pachuca 2 America 2; Tigres 0 Cruz Azul 3.
**Apr 16:** Puebla 2 Atlanto 1; Jaguares 2 Pumas UNAM 0; Monterrey 0 Guadalajara 1; Dorados 2 Veracruz 0; Necaxa 0 Morelia 1; Atlas 1 Tigres 1.
**Apr 17:** Santos 2 Pachuca 0; Tecos UAG 3 Cruz Azul 3; America 0 Toluca 0.
**Apr 20:** Atlante 2 Jaguares 0; Tecos UAG 2 Morelia 0; Guadalajara 2 Necaxa 0; Veracruz 1 America 1; Pachuca 1 Puebla 1; Pumas UNAM 1 Monterrey 2; Tigres 1 Dorados 0; Cruz Azul 1 Atlas 2.
**Apr 21:** Toluca 2 Santos 0.
**Apr 23:** Jaguares 0 Pachuca 1; Monterrey 1 Atlante 0; Dorados 1 Cruz Azul 1; Morelia 4 Guadalajara 2; Atlas 1 Tecos UAG 1; Necaxa 3 Pumas UNAM 1.
**Apr 24:** Puebla 0 Toluca 0; Santos 4 Veracruz 1; America 1 Tigres 1.
**Apr 27:** Santos 1 Pumas UNAM 1.
**Apr 30:** Toluca 1 Jaguares 2; Cruz Azul 2 America 3; Tigres 3 Santos 1; Veracruz 2 Puebla 1; Atlas 2 Dorados 3.
**May 1:** Pumas UNAM 0 Morelia 2; Pachuca 2 Monterrey 0; Atlante 2 Necaxa 3; Tecos UAG 3 Guadalajara 2.

**MEXICO – CLOSING – GROUP 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morelia | 16 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 25 | 15 | 32 |
| Tecos UAG | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 31 | 20 | 29 |
| America | 16 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 33 | 25 | 27 |
| Dorados | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 23 |
| Atlante | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 23 | 19 | 20 |
| Pumas UNAM | 16 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 18 | 26 | 14 |

**GROUP 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cruz Azul | 16 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 36 | 17 | 31 |
| Tigres | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 21 |
| Guadalajara | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 27 | 30 | 20 |
| Toluca | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 21 | 20 |
| Puebla | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 19 | 26 | 16 |
| Atlas | 16 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 30 | 11 |

**GROUP 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monterrey | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 22 | 27 |
| Necaxa | 16 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 23 | 20 | 25 |
| Santos | 16 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 29 | 31 | 25 |
| Pachuca | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 20 |
| Jaguares | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 20 | 19 |
| Veracruz | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 29 | 14 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**

13 Matías Vuoso (Santos)
12 Omar Bravo (Guadalajara)
11 Kleber Pereira (America)

## UNITED STATES

**Apr 9:** New England Revolution 3 Columbus Crew 0; DC United 1 Chicago Fire 1; Colorado Rapids 0 FC Dallas 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 3 Real Salt Lake 1; San Jose Earthquakes 3 Chivas USA 3.
**Apr 15:** Columbus Crew 1 DC United 0.
**Apr 16:** Real Salt Lake 1 Colorado Rapids 0; MetroStars 2 Kansas City Wizards 2; Chivas USA 1 FC Dallas 3; Chicago Fire 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1.
**Apr 22:** MetroStars 0 Chicago Fire 1.
**Apr 23:** DC United 3 New England Revolution 4; FC Dallas 3 Real Salt Lake 0; Colorado Rapids 2 Columbus Crew 0; Los Angeles Galaxy 3 Chivas USA 1; San Jose Earthquakes 3 Kansas City Wizards 2.
**Apr 27:** Chicago Fire 0 New England Revolution 3.
**Apr 30:** Real Salt Lake 2 San Jose Earthquakes 2; New England Revolution 1 Chivas USA 0; Columbus Crew 0 Chicago Fire 2; Kansas City Wizards 0 DC United 0; Colorado Rapids 1 MetroStars 3; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 FC Dallas 0.

**USA – EASTERN CONFERENCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New England | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 5 | 13 |
| Chicago Fire | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 10 |
| Columbus Crew | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| MetroStars | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Kansas City | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| DC United | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 5 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FC Dallas | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 10 |
| LA Galaxy | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| San Jose | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 6 |
| Real Salt Lake | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| Colorado | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| Chivas USA | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 1 |

# AFRICA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### 2nd rnd, 1st legs

**Apr 8:** USM Alger (Alg) 0 Al Ahly (Egy) 1.
**Apr 9:** AS Aviacao (Ang) 1 Zamalek (Egy) 1; Esperance (Tun) 4 Kaizer Chiefs (SAf) 0.
**Apr 10:** Africa Sports (IvC) 1 Raja Casablanca (Mor) 1; Ajax Cape Town (SAf) 2 Fello Star Labe (Gui) 0; Dolphin (Nig) 2 ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 0; Enyimba (Nig) 3 Red Arrows (Zam) 0; FAR Rabat (Mor) 1 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 0.

### 2nd rnd, 2nd legs

**Apr 22:** Al Ahly 2 USM Alger 2 *Al Ahly 3-2 on agg.*
**Apr 23:** Etoile Sahel 2 FAR Rabat 0 *Etoile Sahel 2-1 on agg*; Kaizer Chiefs 2 Esperance 1 *Esperance 5-2 on agg*; Raja Casablanca 1 Africa Sports 0 *Raja Casablanca 2-1 on agg*; Red Arrows 1 Enyimba 6 *Enyimba 9-1 on agg.*
**Apr 24:** ASEC Abidjan 2 Dolphin 0 *Agg 2-2. ASEC 5-3 on pens*; Fello Star Labe 2 Ajax Cape Town 0 *Agg 2-2. Ajax Cape Town 3-2 on pens*; Zamalek 2 AS Aviacao 0 *Zamalek 3-1 on agg.*

*Winners enter group stage; losers enter Confederation Cup*

## AFRICAN CONFEDERATION CUP

### 2nd rnd, 1st legs

**Apr 8:** Al Ittihad (Lby) 3 FC 105 Libreville (Gab) 1.
**Apr 9:** Al Merreikh (Sud) 3 Al Mokawloon 1; Stella (IvC) 1 AS Marsa (Tun) 0.
**Apr 10:** Bendel Insurance (Nig) 0 King Faisal Babies (Gha) 0; Enugu Rangers (Nig) 3 Union Douala (Cam) 1; MC Oran (Alg) 2 Bamboutos Mbouda (Cam) 1.
**Apr 11:** Saint-Eloi Lupopo (DRC) 2 SuperSport United (SAf) 0.

*APR FC (Rwa) v Ismaili (Egy) – the Ismaili squad were refused visas by the Rwandan authorities; tie awarded to Ismaili*

### 2nd rnd, 2nd legs

**Apr 23:** Al Mokawloon 3 Al Merreikh 0 *Al Mokawloon 4-3 on agg*; AS Marsa 2 Stella 0 *AS Marsa 2-1 on agg*; Bamboutos Mbouda 1 MC Oran 0 *Agg 2-2. Bamboutos on away goals*; FC 105 Libreville 2 Al Ittihad 0 *Agg 3-3. FC 105 Libreville on away goals*; SuperSport United 2 Saint-Eloi Lupopo 0 *Agg 2-2. SuperSport 3-2 on pens.*
**Apr 24:** King Faisal Babies 1 Bendel Insurance 0 *King Faisal Babies 1-0 on agg*; Union Douala 1 Enugu Rangers 0 *Enugu Rangers 3-2 on agg.*

# ASIA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Group A**
**Apr 19:** Al Shorta (Irq) 0 Al Rayyan (Qat) 0.
**Apr 20:** Al Salmia (Kuw) 0 Paas (Irn) 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paas | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 10 |
| Al Rayyan | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 |
| Al Salmia | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| Al Shorta | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 2 |

**Group B**
**Apr 20:** Sepahan (Irn) 2 Al Wahda (Syr) 0; Al Shabab (Sau) 1 Al Ain (UAE) 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sepahan | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| Al Ain | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| Al Shabab | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Al Wahda | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 0 |

**Group C**
**Apr 20:** Al Ahli (UAE) 3 Al Kuwait (Kuw) 3; Al Sadd (Qat) 3 Neftchi (Uzb) 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Al Sadd | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| Neftchi | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Al Ahli | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Al Kuwait | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 |

**Group D**
**Apr 20:** Pakhtakor (Uzb) 2 Al Ahli (Sau) 1; Al Jaish (Syr) 0 Al Zawra'a (Irq) 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Al Ahli | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 9 |
| Pakhtakor | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Al Jaish | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Al Zawra'a | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 4 |

**Group E**
**Apr 20:** Suwon Bluewings (SKo) 2 Jubilo Iwata (Jap) 1; Hoang Anh Gia Lai (Vie) 0 Shenzhen Jianlibao (Chn) 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shenzhen | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 10 |
| Suwon | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Jubilo Iwata | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Hoang Anh GL | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 18 | 0 |

**Group F**
**Apr 20:** Shandong Luneng (Chn) 6 PSM Makassar (Ins) 1; Yokohama F Marinos (Jap) 2 BEC Tero Sasana (Tha) 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shandong | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 12 |
| Yokohama FM | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| PSM | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 3 |
| BEC Tero S'na | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

**Group G**
**Apr 20:** Krung Thai Bank (Tha) 0 Binh Dinh (Vie) 1; Persebaya Surabaya (Ins) 0 Busan I'Park (SKo) 3.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Busan I'Park | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 12 |
| Krung Thai Bank | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Binh Dinh | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 4 |
| Persebaya | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 |

*Group winners qualify for quarter-finals*
*Bye to quarter-finals: Al Ittihad (Sau; defending champions)*

## AFC CUP

**Group A**
**Apr 20:** East Bengal (Ind) 0 Al Faisaly (Jor) 1; Muktijoddha (Ban) 1 Nebitchi (Tkm) 2.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Al Faisaly | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 10 |
| Nebitchi | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Muktijoddha | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| East Bengal | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 |

**Group B**
**Apr 20:** Al Hussein (Jor) 2 Dempo (Ind) 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Al Hussein | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Al Ahed (Leb) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Dempo | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

**Group C**
**Apr 20:** Al Nijmeh (Leb) 1 Nisa (Tkm) 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Al Nijmeh | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| Nisa | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Brothers U (Ban) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 |

**Group D**
**Apr 20:** Valencia (Mdv) 0 Tampines Rovers (Sin) 4; Sun Hei (HK) 2 Perak (Mly) 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sun Hei | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 10 |
| Tampines Rvrs | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Perak | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Valencia | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 1 |

**Group E**
**Apr 20:** Home United (Sin) 2 New Radiant (Mdv) 0; Pahang (Mly) 3 Happy Valley (HK) 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home United | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| Pahang | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| New Radiant | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Happy Valley | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 |

*Group winners and the three best runners-up qualify for quarter-finals*

## JAPAN

**Apr 9:** JEF United 4 Oita Trinita 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Kashiwa Reysol 2; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 Kashima Antlers 1; Urawa Reds 1 Gamba Osaka 1; Albirex Niigata 3 Omiya Ardija 2; Cerezo Osaka 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Kawasaki Frontale 1 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0.
**Apr 10:** FC Tokyo 1 Jubilo Iwata 0; Yokohama F Marinos 1 Vissel Kobe 1.
**Apr 13:** Kashima Antlers 2 Omiya Ardija 0; Urawa Reds 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 1; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 4; Jubilo Iwata 1 JEF United 3; Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 FC Tokyo 0; Gamba Osaka 1 Albirex Niigata 1; Vissel Kobe 1 Kawasaki Frontale 6; Oita Trinita 1 Cerezo Osaka 2.
**Apr 16:** JEF United 2 Kashima Antlers 4; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Gamba Osaka 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 0 Oita Trinita 1; Cerezo Osaka 1 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Vissel Kobe 0; FC Tokyo 0 Urawa Reds 2; Albirex Niigata 0 Jubilo Iwata 1.
**Apr 17:** Omiya Ardija 2 Tokyo Verdy 1969 3; Kawasaki Frontale 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2.
**Apr 23:** Urawa Reds 1 Cerezo Osaka 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 JEF United 1; Gamba Osaka 5 FC Tokyo 3; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Kawasaki Frontale 1; Oita Trinita 2 Vissel Kobe 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 2 Albirex Niigata 2; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2.
**Apr 24:** Yokohama F Marinos 1 Omiya Ardija 2; Kashima Antlers 2 Jubilo Iwata 1.
**Apr 28:** Omiya Ardija 3 Oita Trinita 1; JEF United 3 Gamba Osaka 1; FC Tokyo 0 Kashiwa Reysol 2; Kawasaki Frontale 2 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Albirex Niigata 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Jubilo Iwata 2 Urawa Reds 2; Nagoya Grampus Eight 5 Tokyo Verdy 1969 4; Cerezo Osaka 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Vissel Kobe 0 Kashima Antlers 2.
**May 1:** Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Omiya Ardija 1; Urawa Reds 3 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Gamba Osaka 3 Vissel Kobe 1; Oita Trinita 2 FC Tokyo 1; Kashima Antlers 0 Cerezo Osaka 1; Kawasaki Frontale 1 JEF United 0; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Jubilo Iwata 4; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 5 Albirex Niigata 0; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Yokohama F Marinos 1.
**May 4:** Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Oita Trinita 0; Vissel Kobe 0 Urawa Reds 1; FC Tokyo 0 Kashima Antlers 2; JEF United 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Omiya Ardija 1 Kashiwa Reysol 0; Cerezo Osaka 0 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0; Albirex Niigata 2 Kawasaki Frontale 1; Jubilo Iwata 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Yokohama F Marinos 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 1.

**JAPAN**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kashima Antlers | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 7 | 25 |
| Grampus Eight | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 18 |
| Sanfrecce H | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 7 | 17 |
| Omiya Ardija | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 13 | 16 |
| Cerezo Osaka | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 15 |
| K'saki Frontale | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 18 | 15 | 14 |
| Jubilo Iwata | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| Urawa Reds | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 13 |
| JEF United | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 18 | 13 |
| Yokohama FM | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 13 |
| Gamba Osaka | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 19 | 13 |
| Oita Trinita | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 15 | 13 |
| Shimizu S-Pulse | 10 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 12 |
| Albirex Niigata | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 21 | 12 |
| Tokyo Verdy | 10 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 18 | 11 |
| FC Tokyo | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 15 | 10 |
| Kashiwa Reysol | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 9 |
| Vissel Kobe | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 21 | 5 |

# the Knowledge

everything you need to know about...

## Player awards

Players' choice...John Terry

CHELSEA'S DOMINATION of the Premier League this season resulted in a clean sweep of the individual player awards. John Terry won the Professional Footballers' Association award, while Frank Lampard collected the Football Writers' Association award. The latter has more credibility because it is voted on at a later stage of the season.

The most prestigious award in Germany is "Der Fussballer des Jahres", organised by *Kicker* magazine since 1960. The winner is announced in August after a vote by members of the German Sports Journalist Union. *Kicker* is also renowned for its twice-yearly player rankings, where pros are placed in various categories for each position: world class, international class, good form, above average.

In France, the most important individual honour used to be doled out by top weekly *France Football* and decided by its editorial team. Up until 1995 it was open only to Frenchmen playing in France but since 1996 overseas-based French players have been eligible. However, it is being increasingly overshadowed by the "Oscars du Football", a glitzy extravaganza run by the Canal Plus TV channel and the French players' union. The top player award is voted on by First and Second Division players.

Italy's top award is the "Guerin d'Oro", awarded by magazine *Guerin Sportivo* to the best player, coach and referee in Serie A. It is based on the weekly rankings given by the national media during each week of the season, and both Italians and foreigners are eligible. Coming up on the rails is "Migliore in Campo" (Best on the Pitch), the brainchild of the Italian players' association, which is also based on journalists' ratings.

**'Carlos Tevez is one of the few players to have retained the South American Player of the Year award'**

In Spain, weekly magazine *Don Balon* elects the best Spanish and overseas player in the Liga. It has slightly more clout than a similar poll organised by daily newspaper *El Pais*.

The best-known poll in Portugal, open to any Portuguese national, was founded in 1970 by the country's journalist club, the CNID.

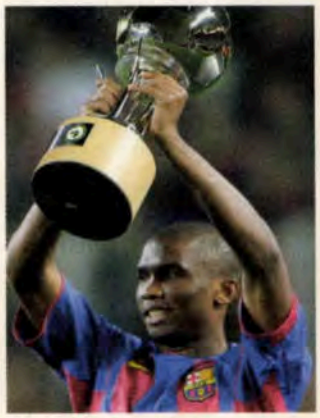
Holland has two highly sought-after individual awards – the players' union poll, and the Golden Boot, which has a longer tradition. The latter goes to the player receiving the highest season total marks from reporters of *Voetbal International* magazine and the *De Telegraaf* newspaper.

In Brazil, magazine *Placar* gives a "Bola de Prata" (Silver Ball) to the best 11 players by position according to marks generated from each national championship game. Since 1973, the player with the best set of marks gets the "Bola de Ouro" (Golden Ball).

Russian newspaper Sport-Express awards an annual "Zvezda" (Star) prize to the best player from the states of the former Soviet Union. Andrii Shevchenko is the current holder.

Back-to-back wins...Carlos Tevez

Uruguayan newspaper *El Pais* has organised the South American Player of the Year award since 1986, asking for the votes of journalists from around the continent. Carlos Tevez, the winner in 2003 and 2004, is one of the few players to have retained the award.



Africa's finest...Samuel Eto'o

Samuel Eto'o also retained his African Footballer of the Year award, the annual gong handed out by the Confederation of African Football, with the winner decided by a poll of the continent's national coaches.

*World Soccer's* World Player of the Year award is the longest running poll of its kind, having been first organised in 1982. FIFA now holds an annual poll of national team coaches for their own Player of the Year award. *France Football's* European Footballer of the Year award, a poll of European journalists, was opened to non-European players in 1995.

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